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- Director 70K
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Hidden TV camera shows deal to smuggle painting out of Italy

Senior staff suspended by Sotheby's

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

SOTHEBY'S
The world's oldest and biggest auctioneers, suspended senior members of staff yesterday amid allegations that it systematically broke the law to smuggle art treasures to London.

A hidden camera carried by an investigator from the Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme filmed Roeland Kollewijn, Sotheby's Old Masters expert in Milan, offering to smuggle a work by the Italian painter Giuseppe Nogari to Britain. He makes a series of damning admissions, acknowledging that it was illegal for the 18th century portrait to leave Italy.

The film also records Sotheby's senior director George Gordon taking delivery of the Nogari at the New Bond Street salerooms in London.

The programme, to be broadcast tonight, is the culmination of six years' work by

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the arts journalist Peter Watson whose book, *Sotheby's: The Inside Story*, begins its serialisation in *The Times* today. The book accuses Sotheby's of arranging the illegal export of Old Masters from Italy to England, of involvement in the export of antiquities from India to England, of creating false paperwork to conceal the origin of items, and of rigging the Art Market Index and auctions.

Sotheby's last night claimed the investigation had deliberately enticed employees into breaching its strict procedures. "We deplore *Dispatches'* methods. Nevertheless, rules may have been

broken and the staff concerned have been suspended pending a fuller investigation," a statement said. "Such behaviour, if proven, does not represent the company's practices, nor will it be condoned by the company's management." The auctioneers refused, however, to say how many staff had been suspended or to identify them.

Watson set up his "sting" in March last year when, posing as an art collector, he bought Nogari's *Old Woman With A Cup* in Naples for £9,500. He then sent a freelance lighting camerawoman, Victoria Parnall, into Sotheby's Milan office with instructions to pose as an Australian who had inherited a valuable collection which she wanted to sell.

She wore a crystal brooch which concealed a tiny fish-eye camera and microphone. On her second visit, Mr Kollewijn is filmed telling her that she could get more money by selling the Nogari in London or New York than in Italy. Asked how she could get the painting out of the country, he says "I'm not telling you this as Sotheby's" and then explains a procedure which would cost a million lire (£450) per picture.

Talking about what would happen after the picture had been smuggled, he says: "It goes to an address in London, and then Sotheby's expert goes there and says 'Oh, how nice, what a surprise!' — he knows, but he doesn't... if anything goes wrong he says, 'I saw those pictures in London. I didn't know the owner exported them illegally.'"

Watson claims the painting was taken to London on May 28 another

member of Watson's team delivered it to Mr Gordon, who sold it at auction for £7,000 on July 3 to yet another member of the team posing as a buyer. The painting was later returned to Italy.

The Sotheby's staff's alleged activities break Italian law and directly contravene the British Antique Dealers' Association code of practice. That states that members should not import, export or transfer the ownership of such objects where they have reasonable cause to believe... that an imported object has been ac-

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Close scrutiny fails to elicit the meaning of men in wigs

This is a tale of three strange men in wigs. Everybody at Westminster has seen them, yet their identities are hazy, their function a mystery. So regular a feature are they that we hardly notice them, never study them, and never ask what they do.

Questions to the Secretary of State for Scotland yesterday, when MPs with funny accents shout at each other for an hour on complex matters, is an ideal time to concentrate on something else. So this sketch tried to

answer the question "what is a clerk?" After 60 minutes of intense field study, we were none the wiser.

Picture the Commons Chamber. At one end sits the Speaker on a raised dais, her feet (often slipped from their shoes) on a footstool. At her feet is a huge oak table. At a big oak table before her, their backs just out of tickling reach of her toes, sit three weird creatures, in a row. I shall call them from her right to left Creatures A, B and C. All are of similar height in

black suits, black gowns, black waistcoats with black buttons, white wing-collar shirts and white ties. Each wears a full-bottomed wig with a pigtail ending in a kiss-curl. Each wears gold-framed spectacles. In front of each a small drawer, and on the table, a quill pen and ink.

Creature A wears a small Chinese beard and a faintly censorious expression. Creature B is a somewhat portly, with a pursed face across which flits, from time to time, the ghost of a hint of owlish amusement. Creature C, the

youngest, has a sharp nose and brow lined with studious concern, when he speaks. Occasionally Madam Speaker whispers to him. He appears to have no other function.

Creatures A, B and C have Order Papers too; and from time to time remove a Hansard from a green file and look idly at it. Mostly,

though, they stare into space with strange expressions.

Once, when Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, accused Labour Glasgow of plans to pour red dye into the Clyde, Clerk B moved his left leg. When Anthony Steen (C, S Hams) suggested that new legislation for Scotland should be weighed, and remain inoperative until the same weight of old legislation had been destroyed, Creature A frowned. As George Robertson complained of delays to the Firearms Bill, Creature B opened his drawer, with

drew a pair of scissors and cut two pieces from the Order Paper. Might he make a paper plane?

Malcolm Chisholm, a Labour spokesman, ranting about "18 years of Tory failure". Creature B pulled a blue book from his drawer, then returned it, unopened. Creature C then did the same. Creature A never did anything. We conclude that he was the senior Creature.

This was proved after Questions were over. Madam Speaker called two MPs to table their Bills. These were

handed to Creature A. He read out their names in a thin, piping voice, then handed them to Creature B. Creature C leaned down and, picking up a water bottle and a glass filled the glass. Creature D moved from the Speaker's side, took the glass, and offered it to the Speaker. She drank, returning the glass to Creature D, who returned it to Creature C.

That is all they did. The coming election may bring many changes but, after it, these Creatures will still be there, their habits unchanged.

Labour plan for top people's pay freeze is condemned as unjust attack on soft target

Judges fear salary gap will deter new recruits

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES said yesterday that a Labour pay freeze could damage recruitment because of the gap between earnings of judges and leading lawyers, from whom judges are drawn.

The 1,500-strong judiciary would be among those hardest hit because the Senior Salaries Review Body has been conducting a fundamental review of their earnings. The review, set up after concerns that judges' earnings were falling behind, looked at differentials between judicial posts and also at the relative earnings between judges and lawyers in independent practice.

Lord Justice Saville, a Lord Justice of Appeal, said yesterday that this gap was now huge. When he became a High Court judge, he was earning almost £30,000 a year at the commercial Bar; the High Court post paid about £25,000. Now, top commercial QCs could earn nearer £1 million, ten times the £104,415 salary of a High Court judge.

"I do not complain, because after all judges know the score and they take on the job for



Lord Justice Saville
salary: £104,415

reasons other than money — although it does seem odd that a barrister who is only three years qualified can now be earning the same as a High Court judge with 30 years' experience."

The whole point of the review was to take judges out of the political arena. "But every time it does not suit the political scene, politicians decide to ignore its findings."

A circuit judge said that judges were already suffering the effects of a delayed pay award. In 1992, the review body recommended 20 per cent, and Government accepted four per cent — which was awarded in stages and only recently completed. "Judges are a soft target," he added. "We are talking about a small group of people and small sums of money. But it's a voluntary catch."

He added that it was important that the review body's recommendations were followed if judges' independence was to be preserved.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, said

Services warn of pensions injustice

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FORMER Service chiefs expressed particular concern about the impact of a pay freeze on pensions.

A serviceman's pension is based on his final salary. Senior commanders retiring during a pay freeze would suffer injustice, said Field Marshal Lord Carver, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1973 to 1976.

"If there was an economic crisis and it was a question of making sacrifices for the good of the nation, then there would be no argument, but this is not the case," Lord Carver said.

The pension of Field Marshal Lord Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1982 to 1985, was based on final salary of £60,000 but could have been based on £72,000 — the salary recommended by the top salaries review board — had it not been for a government freeze.

He said: "I went through many pay freezes in my time. I'm not against them if the Government of the day feels it is necessary, but they can have a very bad impact on pensions. Something would have to be done to prevent pensions from being adversely affected."

Admiral of the Fleet Lord

recently that unless judges were properly paid, the ranks of the judiciary would fill with "second best" candidates. Judicial salaries had been held at a level roughly on a par with senior public servants.

But the English judicial tradition depended on the willingness of successful practitioners to accept appointment. That could not be relied on if the "dispiriting chasm" between judges and lawyers became too great.

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Admiral of the Fleet Lord



Lord Bramall
Salary: £60,000

Lewis, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1979 to 1982, said that a pay freeze would result in the most senior commanders being overtaken by more junior officers on the salary scale. This would discourage officers from seeking promotion. Air Chief Sir Michael Armitage, a former Chief of Defence Intelligence, said that it would drive "good men" out of the Services.

Under current salary scales for the most senior ranks, major-generals and their equivalent in the Royal Navy and RAF receive £66,290; lieutenant-generals are paid £55,000 and four-star generals £101,230. The Chief of the Defence Staff is paid £125,850.

Cabinet chief has most to lose

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE most prominent casualty of Labour's pay freeze would be Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary and head of the Home Civil Service, who is due to retire next January.

Senior officials in Whitehall

said most senior grades would

cope with a one-year freeze

and that the main disappoint-

ment would be for those

retiring. Sources dampened

expectations that the Senior

Salary Review Board would

recommend a 6 per cent rise

for civil servants. The figure

is expected to be nearer 3 per

cent. "When officials have

such great expectations from a

Labour government, it seems

very strange for Gordon

Brown to upset them by

raising this," an insider said.

Civil service unions were

last night seeking a meeting

with the Shadow Chancellor.

Pensions appeared to be the

main area of contention.

Without an increase from

April 1, Sir Robin's will be

worked out on his present

salary, between £120,000 to

£160,000.

Jonathan Baume, of the

Association of First Division

Civil Servants, said last night:

"In our view, it is vital that the

pay of public servants does not

become a political football. We

recognise the problems any

government will face in con-



Sir Robin Butler
Salary: up to £125,000

trolling public spending and public sector pay. But we believe it is unfair to single out one particular group."

Jenny Thurston, of the Insti-

tution of Professionals, Man-

agers and Specialists, said:

"We feel it is inappropriate

that we are being asked to

make the sacrifice when

people in the private sector are

paid half as much again."

Sir Peter Kemp, a former

senior civil servant, was

undeterred: "This has been

done before by Labour and

Tories."

Senior civil servants are

paid according to bands:

Band 1 is in the range £38,000 to £59,700; band 9, £80,000 to £113,500; Permanent Secretary, £90,000 to £154,500.

Second Sellafield leak in 24 hours

A second leak of radioactivity within 24 hours has been found at the British Nuclear Fuels site at Sellafield, Cumbria. Rain on Monday washed contamination from a building's roof but the company said no workers had been affected and there was no public danger. At the Atomic Energy Authority's Dounreay plant in Caithness, management said two new areas of contamination had been found on the site.

Gardiner writ

Sir George Gardiner, the Conservative MP descended by his local party last week, said his lawyers had served a High Court writ calling for the vote to be declared invalid. The Reigate MP is seeking an injunction to prevent the association selecting a new prospective candidate at the general election.

NHS 'rationing'

A working party sponsored by the NHS executive issued a direct challenge to ministers to accept that rationing of health care was inevitable. The NHS will never be able to provide everything required of it and difficult choices must be made, says a group in a report "Priority setting in the NHS".

Two shot in raid

A member of the public and a security guard were shot by gunmen yesterday in a raid on council offices in Bury. Both men were "comfortable" in hospital last night. The three raiders escaped, but it was not known whether any money was taken from the council tax payment centre.

Wildlife shield

Police, customs officers and magistrates are to be given new powers to combat wildlife crime and to impose jail sentences of up to three months for serious offences. The laws, due to come into effect on June 1, will enable police and Government wildlife inspectors to seize cages and specimens.

Masonic check

Would-be magistrates should have to declare whether they are Freemasons, the chairman of the Magistrates Association said. Anne Fuller told the Select Committee on Home Affairs studying Masonic influence in the legal system that current magistrates should also be obliged to say if they have joined.

Inquiry on baby

Police were called in to investigate the death of a baby at Burnley General Hospital. Neil and Gemma Taylor, whose daughter, Charlie Louise, was believed to have been born with physical problems and lived for only 13 hours, had complained they had been given no information about how she died.

Threat to ferry

A Scottish ferry crossing, in existence for more than 1,000 years, which was used by Robert the Bruce and James IV, may be forced to close at the end of March because of council cutbacks. The crossing between Nigg and Cromarty last year carried 20,000 passengers, mainly tourists, and 5,500 cars.

Cabinet ministers may cash in on polling day

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CABINET ministers will be paid a further £4,000 severance money if the Conservatives lose the general election.

At midnight on polling day, the salaries of Cabinet ministers will rise by £16,000. Their severance payments will rise accordingly, even though they will be out of a job within hours if Labour wins the election.

Ministers who are sacked, resign, or lose their job because of a general election defeat are entitled to one quarter of their government salary. At present, Cabinet

ministers are paid £44,000 plus their MP's salary of £43,000. The £16,000 increase, which will take their ministerial pay to £60,000, will add a further £4,000 to their severance package.

Andrew Mackinlay, the Labour MP for Thurrock who spotted the anomaly, said yesterday that he looked forward to Tory ministers handing in the keys to their chauffeur-driven limousines the day after polling. "But the extra £4,000 they will receive through this technicality will make a very nice down payment on a new car of their own," he added.

Some 40 Labour MPs have

tabled a Commons motion, sponsored by Mr Mackinlay, urging ministers to forgo the increase. It reads: "Between

the midnight on polling day and the time of their resignation

from office a few hours later, [ministers'] severance pay

will be enhanced by an additional £4,000." It adds:

"We consider this unwarranted and unjustified windfall would be deeply offensive to other public sector workers.

Those on low pay and the unemployed, for whom severance pay entitlement was little more than a dream."

Mr Mackinlay said: "Politicians should not be able to benefit at taxpayers' expense from a pay rise which applies to them

Teacher claims sex bias after moral crusade cost her job

By ROSELL JENKINS

AN English teacher who has three children by different fathers was forced to resign from a Roman Catholic school after affairs with the science master and a teenage former pupil, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Sharon Rogers, 35, of Bollington, near Macclesfield, Cheshire, says she was hounded from St Peter and Paul's High School, a mixed comprehensive in Widnes, after the headmaster "ranted and raved" about her "suspect morals". She is claiming compensation from the school governors for sexual discrimination and constructive dismissal from her post, teaching English and media studies.

Miss Rogers, described as an atheist, attended the hearing in Liverpool with her lover, Frank Youlds, a former pupil at the school and the father of her daughter Chloe, who was born last March. The couple met at a nightclub when he was aged 16 and had left school to do his A levels at a sixth-form college. She became a mother for the first time by a husband whom she has since divorced. Her second child, Eva, now two, was the result of a short affair with Russell Mason, the science master.

Miss Rogers told the tribunal that headmaster Mike Glover had ranted and raved about her suspect morals. "He said he had heard a rumour about my relationship with a former pupil and he told me 'If you are going to play, play away



Mike Glover said to have "ranted and raved"

from home". He said it was not suitable behaviour for a teacher at a Catholic school.

Her position within the school grew increasingly difficult, she said. She had an inkling of what was to come when she wrote a letter informing the school that she would be returning from her maternity leave and did not receive a reply.

The teacher who had been assigned to her classes during the leave told her on the telephone that she had been instructed to carry on teaching the classes beyond the expected return date. Miss Rogers said she felt totally rejected and

apprehensive. On her first day back at school, Barbara Lloyd-Jones, her department head, warned her that Mr Glover was compiling a dossier about her. She said that a meeting with him would be a "horrible experience" and that "if I was sacked I would not get another job in teaching".

The deputy headmaster also urged Miss Rogers to resign in the school's best interests. Instead of her old duties she was given a revised timetable that, in effect, meant she was spending her time covering for absent colleagues.

"This was not a satisfying experience," Miss Rogers said. "I wanted to teach my subjects, which I love. I did not want to be involved in babysitting. It was at this time I felt I had no alternative but to resign as I did not need the stress."

"I had a young baby of nine weeks and I was still breastfeeding her. I just caved in. The only way I could keep my sanity was to resign. I was told I was going to be sacked and I had no alternative."

In the tribunal Miss Rogers was accused by Michael Chambers, counsel for Cheshire County Council, of going out of her way to court publicity. She was no "fainting violet", he said.

Miss Rogers replied: "I believe I have got every right to stand up and speak out about what has happened to me. I was a strong, confident woman before all this happened. I feel I am making a stand for women's rights in Catholic schools."

The hearing continues.



Sharon Rogers yesterday, she claims she is making a stand for women's rights at Catholic schools

Wren wins sexual harassment case against ministry

By DAREH GREGORIAN

A FORMER "Wren" won her claim of sexual discrimination and constructive dismissal against the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

The amount of compensation to be awarded to Lesley Morris, who said she had suffered four years of constant sexual harassment by male colleagues, will be decided today. Ms Morris, 23, is seeking £150,000.

After the decision by an industrial tribunal in Manchester, she hugged her fiancé, David McCullough, 25, and punched the air with delight. "This is the happiest day of my life," she said. "I'm delighted with the outcome, but I'm still affected by what happened. I still have panic attacks and don't sleep very well."

She added: "It's been a hell of an ordeal, but I'm glad I did it. I proved what I set out to do, and hopefully all the other girls that have gone through, and are still going through what I did, may take the example and speak out."

Miss Morris, who lives in Shotton, Flintshire, and works in a factory, had told the tribunal of numerous "horrible" incidents of sexual harassment. They included having her breasts grabbed and being forced to mimic oral sex. She said the male sailors constantly insulted the Wrens.

Her ambition had been to become a physical training instructor. She said that she had gone to HMS Raleigh at Torpoint, Cornwall, to work on rope climbing and pole vaulting. "I was the only

woman in the gym and I was given impossible tasks to do. As punishment I was made to jump in the swimming pool in my white tee-shirt, gym skirt, socks and pumps, which became transparent when wet. I was asked questions like, 'Are you cold, because your nipples are erect?'

Miss Morris, who had joined the service at 17, had taken a paracetamol overdose and been discharged from the Navy as "temporally unserviceable" in 1995. "It broke my heart to leave the Navy. It was all I ever wanted to do."

The Ministry of Defence admitted liability in the case yesterday. A spokesman for the Royal Navy declined to comment on the case until it was completed, but said: "All complaints are taken very seriously and are fully investigated."



Morris still suffers from panic attacks

I am not a threat, Hindley tells radio

By RICHARD FORD

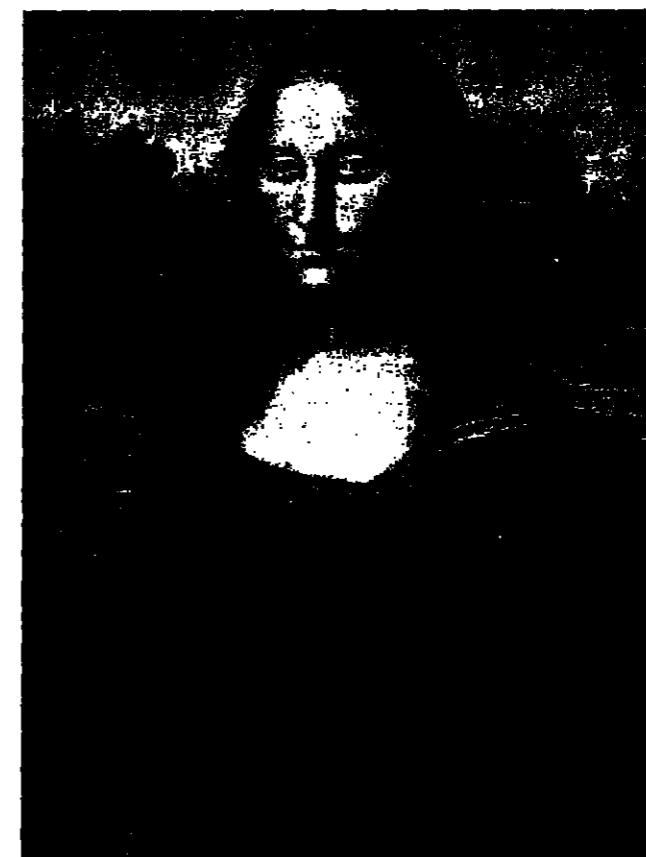
THE moors murderer Myra Hindley said yesterday that she would continue to fight for her release from prison. She insisted that she was no risk to the public and that while in prison she had addressed her offending behaviour.

Hindley, 54, was told two days ago in Durham prison that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, had confirmed the "whole life" sentence imposed on her in 1990. Her case is reviewed every five years but it is unlikely that any Home Secretary in the near future would risk the public controversy involved in recommending that she be freed.

Her lawyers are considering a High Court challenge to Mr Howard's decision and in a letter read out on *Talk Radio*, Hindley acknowledged the "heinousness" of her crimes. She was jailed in 1966 for the murders of Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and Edward Evans, 17. In 1987 she admitted to the murders of Keith Bennett, 12, and Pauline Reade, 16.

Hindley wrote: "What I was involved in is etched into my heart and mind — my conscience will follow me to my dying day." She expressed remorse for her crimes but insisted that the time had come when it would be safe to release her. "If I could undo what I have done I would be desperate to do so. I have done all that is in my power to make amends but I know that this is no consolation to the victims' families."

THE PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION:



For sale: errant curate's scandalous house of love

By RUTH GLEDSHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the most scandalous addresses of the Victorian age is up for sale, 150 years after it was built as a temple of love by an errant cleric.

Barford Gables in Somerset was known as "The Abode of Love" when the Rev Henry Prince declared himself the new Messiah and installed a bevy of "soul brides" there.

He built the nine-bedroom house in 1849, in the village of Spaxton near Bridgwater, as headquarters for his quasi-religious order, but news soon leaked out of sexual ceremonies taking place on a billiards table he used as an altar. Mr Prince, an ordained Anglican clergyman who was curate of Charlton, Somerset, was defrocked after he claimed to be the Son of God.

In 1856, Prince was said to have deflowered a virgin on the table, watched by an attentive audience including his wife and the girl's mother, while solemn organ music

played in the background. When the girl became pregnant, Prince claimed Satan was responsible.

Surprisingly, the renegade former clergyman was popular with locals. He often ventured out in a coach and four, with outriders blowing trumpets to proclaim the Messiah's approach.

Despite his self-proclaimed immortality, in 1859 he died, aged 88. His distraught disciples buried him upright in the garden to make his ascension easier. They waited in vain for his resurrection.

After 50 years of waiting they turned to another clergyman, John Smyth-Piggott, who ran a London "church" built by Prince to attract new disciples. Arriving in Somerset, he found the charms of the original "Agapeonites" were fading, so he kicked them out and recruited fresh talent. A journalist who infiltrated the Abode of Love in

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Female GP fondled woman, GMC told

By AUDREY MAGEE

A FEMALE GP indecently assaulted a woman patient and asked her improper questions about her sexual relations, a General Medical Council hearing was told yesterday.

Dr Christine Keown, 46, allegedly "touched up" the 28-year-old patient as she lay on the doctor's couch, naked from the waist down, during a smear test in March 1995.

The patient, known only as Miss A, had collapsed during a visit to her parent's home in the Midlands. She was diagnosed as suffering from endometriosis, a gynaecological disorder in which the lining of the womb collapses.

Miss A, a science graduate of Nottingham University, was referred by Dr Keown to the Royal Surrey County Hospital, where she underwent laser treatment in 1994.

Miss A alleges that Dr Keown had been unsympathetic.

Miss A had later attended an appointment at the clinic for a smear test. She alleges that while she was on the couch Dr Keown fondled her intimately. Miss A said: "It really made me feel sick and I did not understand why it was necessary." She said Dr Keown asked her questions about her sexual relationships and about her father, implying that she might have been abused by him.

Nicola Davies, QC, for Dr Keown, suggested Miss A had confused the doctor's actions: she was carrying out an internal examination to establish the state of Miss A's womb lining. Dr Keown denies professional misconduct. The hearing continues.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

SHOPPING FOR LOVE

The essential guide to gifts for stylish lovers

in

Weekend

THE PROFIT
PRINCIPLE

A 16-page special on savings and investments

Weekend Money
guide

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the Magazine,
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the Directory

Former PoWs join Japanese for Burma memorial services

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH and Japanese war veterans are to visit cemeteries in Burma together in a historic gesture of reconciliation.

The 34 former soldiers, nine British and 25 Japanese, will attend a series of joint services to commemorate those who died in Burma — 37,000 Commonwealth soldiers and 190,000 Japanese. The veterans, representing the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group from Britain and the All Burma Veterans Association of Japan, will meet this weekend at the start of a 12-day trip.

The Government recently rejected an appeal by former prisoners of war for support in seeking compensation from Japan for their ill-treatment during the Second World War.

Yesterday members of the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors Association voiced anger at the trip by former British Burma Campaign soldiers. Bill Holtham, chairman of the association, said: "If these veterans want to behave

like brothers in arms, let them do it but I have no intention of forgiving or forgetting."

Mr Holtham, who was a PoW for three and a half years, added: "We don't go in for socialising with the Japanese and we don't intend to join hands with them."

Mr Holtham has written to Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister, after his announcement in the Commons that the Government would not put pressure on Japan to give compensation to the PoWs. Mr Holtham said he had reminded Mr Hanley that there was no statute of limitations covering crimes against humanity. "All the compensation we ever received was £76.50 each after the peace agreement signed in San Francisco." The association, which represents 9,000 men and women, has sought legal advice to claim £14,000 for every PoW.

Major Philip Malins, of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group, which has about 100 members, said yesterday that he had every sympathy for the PoWs but that it was time for reconciliation.

Major Malins, 71, who fought in Burma with the Royal Indian Army Service Corps of the 20th Indian Division, said the joint services represented the culmination of the group's efforts for reconciliation, begun in 1989.

Major Malins who has not returned to Burma since the war, said: "For the first time the British and Japanese former enemies will come together on Burmese soil."

Masao Hirakubo, a Japanese veteran who lives in Britain, and the only Japanese member of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group, said: "My promise to the dead was to work for reconciliation."

Major Malins will be presenting Burma plaques to the British and Japanese ambassadors in Rangoon on Friday next week.



Tracie Andrews, charged with murdering her fiancé, remained silent at the appeal

Woman appeals for road-rage witnesses

BY JOANNA BALE

LAWYERS defending a woman charged with murdering her fiancé after she blamed "road-rage" attackers appealed yesterday for information on new leads they say they have uncovered.

Tracie Andrews, who was advised to stay silent for legal reasons, attended a press conference at which Paul Alexander, clerk to her solicitor, Tim Robinson, said that a woman social worker had been the victim of a similar attempt to force her off the road. A fat male passenger in the car bore a "remarkable likeness" to the man who Miss Andrews said stabbed her fiancé 40 times on December 1 as they drove home to Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester.

Two other witnesses had heard "two cars travelling at very high speed through a village at the time, very close to the murder scene".

Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, of West Mercia police, said that the information would not significantly alter his investigation.

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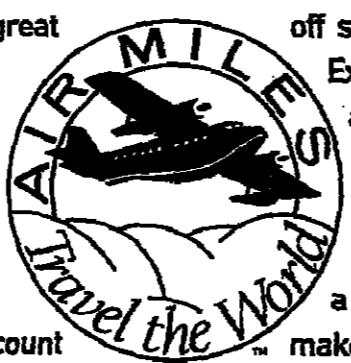
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Resort fears prison ship will hit tourism

BY RICHARD FORD AND IAN MURRAY

PLANS to moor a prison ship off Dorset were in disarray last night after councillors protested that it would spoil the view of Portland harbour and upset tourists.

The celebrations should be

a time for reflection, the National Heritage Secretary will tell community leaders meeting in Chelsea today. She believes the millennium should be a period of spiritual regeneration for all faiths.

She said yesterday that it was hoped 2000 would be marked by an additional Bank Holiday — June 12 appeared most favourable.

of the Labour group on the hung council said: "It is bound to have a serious detrimental effect on the holiday industry of the borough."

The Prison Service has already begun considering other moorings. Under planning law, it could still moor the ship in the harbour, but it does not want to override strong local opposition. The Department of the Environment is likely to arbitrate.

The vessel, to house 400 low-risk prisoners for three years, was bought for over £4 million. It is currently undergoing repairs near New York before being shipped across the Atlantic aboard a huge barge. But first a berth must be found.

Yesterday's opposition by Weymouth and Portland planning committee is likely to be backed by a full council meeting today. Roy Gainey, leader

Judge praises mother's courage and determination in fighting cancer

£60,000 for woman who lost child in smear-test blunder

By EMMA WILKINS

A WOMAN who lost her unborn child after medical staff failed to diagnose cervical cancer in a routine smear test was awarded £60,000 damages at the High Court in London yesterday.

Judith Thurman, 33, who has a six-year-old son, Joseph, was praised by Judge Hedley for the remarkable bravery she had shown in fighting the cancer, which left her unable to have more children.

Mrs Thurman, from Christchurch, New Zealand, underwent a routine smear test in 1988 when she was living in Wiltshire with her husband, who is English. A pathologist at Salisbury Infirmary — now closed — failed to spot abnormalities and the cancer developed untreated for four years. Further tests on uterine tissue in 1991 also failed to detect cancer, the court was told.

When the advanced stages of the disease were finally diagnosed in June 1992 in New Zealand, Mrs Thurman was pregnant with a much-wanted second child. "The medical advice was uncompromising — the child must be aborted or her life lost," the judge said.

Mrs Thurman underwent a hysterectomy followed by months of painful radiotherapy, including internal radiation treatment. Her chances of surviving are good if she remains clear of cancer until the summer — five years after the hysterectomy.

Awarding the sum against Wiltshire and Bath health

authority, the judge said Mrs Thurman's courage and resilience were remarkable. "The experience of being a judge can make one cynical about fellow human beings, as so much of a judge's time is taken up with the consequences of human failure and wrongdoing."

"However, every so often one encounters a person whose courage and determination in adversity restore the balance. I hope Mrs Thurman will not feel patronised if I say that she is such a person."

The judge added: "If ever a case demonstrated the inadequacy of money to compensate for loss, then this must be it."

The health authority, now the Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust, admitted liability but contested the amount of damages in a statement read to the court. It apologised to Mrs Thurman and said procedures had been introduced to prevent similar blunders.

It added that it was recognised by the appropriate scientific authorities that the screening of smears could not be 100 per cent effective.

The damages were awarded on a provisional basis, on the assumption that Mrs Thurman is completely cured. But the judgment left open the prospect of further damages if the disease recurred, or if connected problems of osteoporosis or impaired urinary function materialised.

After the hearing, Mrs Thurman, who works as an computer programmer.

The court was told that Mrs Thurman had impressed doctors with her courage in fighting cancer. Apart from the trauma of the decision to abort her second child, Mrs Thurman suffered scarring and internal deformities which have affected her sex life, the judge said.

After the hearing, Mrs Thurman, who works as an



Judith Thurman with her boyfriend Randy Anderson at the High Court yesterday

Lives put at risk by sick doctors who soldier on

DOCTORS who think they are invulnerable to illness are putting patients at risk by failing to seek medical help when they need it. Fatal errors have been made by sick doctors, according to a study that blames medical training for instilling the stiff upper lip approach.

The increasing demands of patients also lead some doctors to deny that they are ill and to continue working when their judgment is impaired, according to the report by Professor Walter Holland and colleagues in the Department of Public Health at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

"Without any question, patients are being put at risk. Doctors believe they are there to serve other people. There is no reason why they should be ill," Professor Holland said. He cited the case of Dr Carol Starkie, a pathologist in

■ Doctors should be given more support to encourage them to admit when they are ill and to banish the profession's stiff upper lip attitude, Jeremy Laurance reports

Birmingham, who misdiagnosed 42 cases of cancer in 1992-93 after developing multiple sclerosis. Dr Starkie apologised for the errors after telling officials of her illness and seeking early retirement.

The study, conducted in three health districts, disclosed similar incidents. One doctor confessed that, while depressed, he had given the wrong advice to a psychiatric patient who later committed suicide. Other cases involved sick doctors in casualty departments giving wrong drugs or sending patients home in error. Only when the mistakes

had been made were the doctors told to take time off.

The report says: "Doctors do not seek help because of the stigma of illness, peer pressure and professional loyalty, attitudes of denial learnt in medical training and lack of insight into personal illness."

As a result, their health problems, if addressed at all, are not addressed at an early stage and any help given is informal."

A second part of the study, this time conducted in eight districts, found that doctors suffered the same illnesses as a comparable group of mar-



Starkie made errors after MS diagnosis

agement consultants but reacted to them differently. The doctors were less likely to take time off or to consider themselves ill but when they did, they were absent longer. The pressures were greater on the doctors to keep working, especially GPs. It is important to realise you may be ill like anyone else and when you are ill for God's sake get treatment," Professor Holland said.

The problem was compounded by unsympathetic colleagues. A GP told the researchers that while in hospital he had been shouted at on the telephone by his partners, who were worried about the practice losing patients.

Another who contracted glandular fever said his colleagues had told him he would have to "pay back" all the on-call cover they had provided for him.

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plained that the Health De-

partment was not providing sufficient support for doctors. The Health Department had an occupational health policy for doctors but there were too few occupational health physicians to cope, he said, and most doctors were suspicious of them because of past

breaches of confidentiality. "The Health Department says the problems have got to be addressed through the occupational health service, but they don't do anything about it," he said.

The report, published by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, calls for locum cover to be provided in every health district to allow sick doctors to take time off.

About two thirds of doctors who take sick leave are suffering from psychiatric problems, and the report says treatment should be offered outside the district where they work to save them embarrassment and to make them more inclined to seek help.

□ Protecting and promoting doctors' health, Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust (59 Cavendish Street, London W1M 7RD; £5)

Raymond Blane's plans for major extensions at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, his award-winning hotel and restaurant at Great Milton, were rejected by South Oxfordshire District Council. Proposals included larger kitchens and staff quarters, 14 extra bedrooms, a spa and a gymnasium.

Out of the desert

Szio, the obscure rock band whose record "Carrie Today" was chosen by Tony Blair as one of his Desert Island Discs, has signed a deal with MCA to make five albums. The Labour leader expressed delight that the Cambridgeshire band's music was to become available to a wider audience.

There's the rub

Eight women police officers in South Wales are being issued with £30 tailored bullet-proof vests because "standard armour is causing 'jogger's nipple'". Chief Inspector Bruce Clarke said: "When you are on the eight-hour shift the last thing you want to worry about is your nipples."

Ben Gowrie, 21, a medical student and member of the boat club, said: "I want to improve my leg muscles and become more agile and I think dance will help."

One of the authors, Alan Sinclair of the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, said yesterday: "If for two years in a row the rate of recruitment of young fish falls, then there will be very little cod left in the North Sea." He likened the plight of North Sea cod to that of the once plentiful Newfoundland stock, which collapsed "very quickly" in the early 1990s. The International

Commission for the Exploration of the Seas, which advises the European Commission and fisheries ministers, has recommended that fishing rates be reduced sharply. The researchers support the council's call.

However, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods disputes claims that the fishery is in imminent danger of crashing. The latest estimates were that 350 million cod aged one year or older were in the North Sea, it said yesterday.

"The time to take the last cod may be many years off," a spokesman said. "However, we cannot dismiss the idea that in the long term North Sea cod may be unable to withstand current fishing levels."

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Santer ridicules Major's attack on social chapter

By CHARLES BRENNER AND POLLY NEWTON

JACQUES SANTER, president of the European Commission, struck back yesterday at John Major's campaign against the social chapter, dismissing his argument as caricature.

He rejected all the main points made by Mr Major in Brussels on Tuesday, when the Prime Minister depicted the social chapter as a force for strangling the European economy and putting millions out of work. "Let us stop the caravans," Mr Santer said.

Usually emollient, he has taken an aggressive tone towards Mr Major over recent months as the Government has distanced itself from the rest of the European Union. Mr Major made a point in his speech of dismissing as pure myth Mr Santer's charge last December that the Government's social policy amounted to condoning Dickensian "sweat shops".

Mr Santer said the social chapter, from which Britain has an opt-out, was not the enemy of competitiveness but complementary to it. "The social chapter is a platform for good industrial relations which, as experience in many member states shows, can be harmonious, mature and non-conflictual."

The social chapter is not a symbol of over-regulation. Only two pieces of legislation have been adopted and both of them are very important—the directive on parental leave and the directive on information and consultation of workers."

Mr Major acknowledged

that the social chapter, enshrined in the 1992 Maastricht treaty, had so far produced only those two pieces of legislation but he depicted it as a Trojan Horse for the creation of a stifling new bureaucracy.

Yesterday the Commission

accompanied Mr Santer's

statement with a "fact sheet" that ridiculed Mr Major's claims. "There is no mass of legislation emanating from Brussels, choking businesses to death. Nothing could be further from the truth. The bulk of legislation which regulates the labour market is of national origin," it said. It added that "pay and trade union rights are specifically excluded from the social chapter".

Mr Major's speech, heralded as an attempt to win Europe over to Britain's argument, made barely a ripple on the Continent. The governing classes in Brussels and other EU states consider business with Britain to be in abeyance until after the election. The most desired result of the vote is a strong majority for either big party. This, it is deemed, would allow a Labour or Tory prime minister to act without fear of his Eurosceptic wing.

Yesterday Labour sought to

dismiss the suggestion that it

was committed to taking Brit-

ain into a single currency in

2002. Robin Cook, Shadow

Foreign Secretary, told busi-

nessmen in London that the

party was keeping its options

open.

In an interview on Sunday Mr Cook appeared to suggest

that the party was

expecting to win the

general election. Mr

Blair's route had been painstakingly

checked for potential snags and shopkeepers vetted for their affiliations. Nothing was left to chance.

Earlier he sat in the back bar of the Cheshire Cat public house in Thornton Hough for a question and answer session with an audience of mostly former Tory voters considering switching to Labour. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said the pub name was apt

since Mr Blair "grins all the time and says nothing of any substance".

At Mr Chips, the fish shop, run by Tony Blair, a namesake, the Labour leader took off his suit jacket and served Emma Crowe, with her children Oliver, two, and Poppy, ten months, chips with lots of ketchup and not much vinegar. Mr Blair turned to the accompanying cameras and said: "If the press would only leave, I could make a pig of myself."

Only one man managed to escape

the "good news cordon" around Mr Blair. James Perks, a pensioner, told him that Labour's policies would mean embracing the single Euro-currency and put an end to sovereignty.

Afterwards Margaret Bracegirdle, 68, a former deputy head teacher and voter who lives in Heswall, said:

"I am definitely changing this time to Socialist. It is time we gave them a chance."

□ A 24-hour "rapid response" adver-

tising unit has been created by Labour to enable the party to respond to swings in public opinion and to Tory campaigns. The unit, modelled on similar initiatives in the United States, will be staffed by advertising copywriters, planners and media buyers.

Its aim is to place advertisements

on breaking news stories or

urgent topical issues in the national

press on the day that the papers carry

editorial reports on them.

John Major at the awards ceremony yesterday where he met Craig Kelly, above right



You're the
winner,
young fan
tells Major

By DANIEL McGROarty

POLITICAL REPORTER

AN OPPOSITION demand for a fresh investigation into how political parties are funded was easily defeated by the Government in the House of Lords last night.

Peers voted by 185 to 135, a government majority of 50, to reject a call for the issue to be looked into by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life or by a similar body.

Tory peers said that an inquiry was unnecessary, but Labour and Liberal Democrats said that party funding needed to be more transparent to restore public confidence in the political process. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Liberal Democrat leader in the Lords, who moved the resolution, said there was a need for disclosure because "criminal, semi-criminal and foreign money" found its way into political subscriptions.

The Liberal Democrats and Labour recognise the overriding public case for full disclosure even if that involves a few embarrassments, whereas the Conservative Party believes that the scale of their embarrassments is such that they must cling to secrecy until the last possible moment."

Lord Richard,

the Labour leader in the Lords, said his party wanted full disclosure of donations over £5,000 and a ban on overseas and large secret donations. He described the "dubious and disreputable" way in which the Tory party raised funds, and listed several fraudsters and fugitives from justice who had given the party money.

"This carries with it an unmistakable odour of sleaze and corruption, particularly in the light of the fact that an examination of the honours lists under the Tories illustrates a high proportion of recipients of knighthoods as being personal donors or linked to companies who have contributed to the Tories."

Lord Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, rejected the charge and instead asked why Labour was so secretive about those who donated money to the "blind trust" used to fund Tony Blair's personal office in Westminster.

Blair fishes for compliments in Wirral walkabout

By RUSSELL JENKIN

TONY BLAIR emphasised his appeal to the middle-class voters of Wirral South yesterday with a stage-managed walkabout. The Labour leader was kissed by a former Miss Great Britain finalist, served chips smothered in tomato ketchup to a mother and toddler and posed for photographs with firefighters.

His day on the hustings was a forerunner of what the electorate can

expect in the general election. Mr Blair's route had been painstakingly checked for potential snags and shopkeepers vetted for their affiliations. Nothing was left to chance.

Earlier he sat in the back bar of the Cheshire Cat public house in Thornton Hough for a question and answer session with an audience of mostly former Tory voters considering switching to Labour. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said the pub name was apt

since Mr Blair "grins all the time and says nothing of any substance".

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Lilley: inviting tenders

US firms
bid for
job search
contracts

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

AMERICAN firms that run compulsory job-seeking schemes in the United States are planning to export their skills to Britain. Many of the firms are encouraged to enter the British employment market by bidding for government contracts that will offer them bonuses to find work for single parents.

Pilot projects giving single parents extra help in finding work will begin next month with the American employment experts offering advice on everything from childcare and the financial benefits of working rather than claiming income support.

Among the companies bidding for the contracts are those that have operated similar schemes, including the Californian GAIN project under which claimants are compelled to take part in the scheme. However, ministers insist that the British scheme will be voluntary and that people who refuse help will not lose income support.

Under the privatised part of the Parent Plus scheme, the companies will be paid by results if they find jobs lasting more than two months. Private companies will operate four of the 12 pilot projects beginning in April. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, will today invite tenders for the private sector parts of the scheme, which is intended to reduce by 100,000 the number of single parents claiming income support.

Has Labour learnt from pay policy of the 1970s?

Gordon Brown's proposal to freeze "top people's" pay is a bad omen for a Labour government. It smacks of the pseudo-equalitarianism of the incomes policy era of the 1970s. The well-off are supposed to make sacrifices to persuade others to accept low pay rises. This is just the type of empty populist gesture that Labour was supposed to have left behind.

The Brown camp argues that he had to demonstrate, not least to Shadow Cabinet colleagues, that a Labour government would not only stay within cash limits but was also willing to take tough decisions in choosing between expenditure priorities. Labour oppositions have in the past made wide-ranging promises to public sector unions that they have then had to fulfil in office, at considerable cost to the Treasury and the taxpayer, as in 1974-75. That, at least, has been avoided and Mr Brown has been prepared to be candid and risk unpopular with public spending.

No government can commit itself to implementing in full the recommendations of pay review bodies. The Cabinet is today likely to agree to a phasing of the recommended rises. That is normal and should help to ensure that total pay bills remain under control. But even phasing allows a gradual implementation of changes in the structure of pay, including the introduction of performance

links, which the review bodies from time to time recommend.

However, Mr Brown's proposal goes much further. He argues that a Labour government should offer a lead, coupling fairness with toughness: if lower paid public sector workers are to be persuaded to accept small pay rises, but freezing the pay of senior civil servants, judges, military offices, midwives and MPs goes much further than just equality of sacrifice. A freeze would undermine the work of the review bodies and result in a narrowing of pay differentials. And after the freeze in the first year of a Labour government, there would be the usual problem of "re-entry": would a catch-up then be allowed? Or would the need for further expenditure restraint produce another freeze? Many of the public sector "top people" are anyway not paid well by private sector standards and a freeze would increase the gap.

Much will depend on what form of phasing the Government announces today. Some increases may have been implemented before election day. Later stages of phasing may be frozen. Labour Cabinet ministers would apparently be expected not to take the pay rises already approved and due in April. The big increase in MPs' pay has been

implemented, though Labour MPs would be expected not to accept the further, smaller rise due this year.

Financially, a freeze would be irrelevant since £20 million at most, and probably well under half that, would be saved. This is the politics of guilt and exhortation that so discredited past incomes policies. Asking judges, generals or permanent secretaries to "set an example" will not help low paid clerical staff. Instead, the proposal revives the idea of a "fair" rate of pay which stakes up envy and destructively high pay claims.

Mr Brown presumably wanted to be conciliatory to Union and other unions, however much it irked the First Division Association. But in the long term it is more likely to stir up public sector unions than to appease them.

Labour has a fair complaint against the tactics adopted by the Government, and it could gain in the short term, not least by creating some distance from the Tories on a populist issue. Indeed, Tony Blair told the Shadow Cabinet last night that the announcement had gone well in Wirral South. But this is the behaviour of opposition-minded politicians, not of potential ministers trying to show they have learnt the lessons of past Labour failures.

PETER RIDDELL

Affordable Healthcare

Jobless rise dents German hopes of monetary union

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE number of Germans on the dole has jumped to 4.6 million, dashing the Government's hope of an early recovery on the labour market and pushing the Maastricht monetary union targets farther out of reach.

The January figures show that about 450,000 Germans lost their jobs last month in one of the biggest increases of recent years. The country has the highest unemployment level since the 1930s. The main reason is the dismal state of the building industry. In the past, German building workers have received so-called bad-weather money to keep them going when snow stops work on the sites. As part of an austerity package, that practice has been halted and employers are expected to pay 75 per cent of wages for the first 20 days of cold weather.

Companies have refused to take on the commitment and have been dismissing hundreds of thousands of workers during the winter to hire cheaper foreign workers instead. A new minimum wage law, which came into force last month, has so far failed to make an impact.

The figures, from experts

associated with the Federal Labour Office, are 200,000 higher than expected. A week ago Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, predicted that unemployment would average 4.1 million this year. That would allow Bonn to keep its public-sector deficit down to 2.9 per cent of gross domestic product, enabling it to hit the 3 per cent target set by Maastricht for membership of economic and monetary union.

The figures lean heavily on expectations of a 6.5 per cent rise in German exports this year and the resumption of capital investment based on low interest rates and modest wage increases. However, the connection between better growth and much improved employment seems to be at best tenuous.

The Association of Mechanical Plant Constructors, employing 945,000 workers, said yesterday that it expected a better year, but 10,000 jobs would be cut. Other industries are reporting a similar trend. The budget cuts also mean that job-creation schemes in eastern Germany will be wound down this year.

A contracting job market is beginning to influence the prospects for Helmut Kohl's re-election next year. A survey by *Die Woche*, to be published today, indicates that 55 per cent of Germans want the Chancellor to retire and only 36 per cent are in favour of his carrying on for another term. Even supporters of Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union are unhappy with the prospect of their leader seeking another term: 22 per cent want a different candidate. That has fuelled rumours that he is preparing to retire as early as September.

It is clear that party managers are adjusting their campaign to promote the euro to take into account the strong discontent about unemployment. Academics at a Bonn conference of the Institute of German Economics seemed to make a considerable impact on politicians yesterday by arguing that EMU would lead to a more flexible labour market.

Although all speakers were sceptical about Europe-wide wage bargaining after introduction of EMU, most seemed to agree that the single currency would eventually make it easier to hire workers.



Workers set up the dance floor inside Vienna's State Opera House for the opera ball tonight. The Duchess of York is to be guest of honour

Lavish ball highlights size of Austria's social gulf

By Roger Boyes

AT THE cry of *Alles Walzer* (everybody waltz) the Duchess of York will be taking to the floor of the Vienna Opera Ball tonight at one of the most controversial events in the Austrian social calendar.

Outside the State Opera House, groups of belcavala-clad anarchists and radical leftwingers are ready to do battle with each other and with mounted police, in the annual protest of the unruly poor against the world of

post-Habsburgian privilege. Inside, gossip columnists will be watching closely to see if Austrian tennis star Thomas Muster renews his friendship with Sarah Ferguson.

Austrian papers speculate that the Duchess will be paid about £35,000 for her appearance to mark the opening of the ball season. This has not been officially confirmed but the sum would clearly be in line with the bait offered to other celebrities in the past to brighten up this attempt to recapture the spirit of the Austro-Hungarian

Emperor. Then, the Vienna ball was a match-making event. Now it is a debutante's ball with more than 150 couples having drilled for the past year for the opening quadrille; it is also a place for businessmen to exercise their expense accounts. Tickets cost £160, a box good is £900.

But the real social gulf is apparent elsewhere in the growing resentment of ordinary Austrians about the lavish expense at a time when budgets are being sliced to meet the European monetary union target for 1997. Many

will watch the ball on Austrian television, some will watch the giant video screens outside the opera house, others will be tossing cobblestones at the police. Above all though, there will be the nagging question of whether the recreation of the Habsburg era is worth the extravagance.

Franz Vranitzky, the outgoing Chancellor, has sensed the popular mood and is staying away. His successor, Viktor Klima, contrived to arrange his first foreign visit as leader on the day of the ball.

Clinton praises 'gifted' Harriman

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PAMELA HARRIMAN, the British-born American Ambassador to France, died in Paris yesterday, two days after lapsing into a coma after a brain haemorrhage.

Members of her family, including her son, Winston Churchill, the Conservative MP for Davyhulme, had gathered at the American Hospital in Paris where Mrs Harriman, 76, died shortly before 3pm (GMT).

President Clinton, who appointed her America's Ambassador to France in 1993, was among the first to pay tribute to a woman celebrated equally for her political talents and her romantic past. "She was one of the most unusual and

gifted people I have ever met," he said.

The English society hostess and daughter-in-law of Sir Winston Churchill will be remembered as the doyenne of America's Democratic Party, collapsed on Monday night after her daily swim in the Ritz Hotel's pool. She never regained consciousness, and on Tuesday night died in Washington, following a Paris memorial service.

She had been expected to leave France by June, but her death comes at a tense moment in Franco-US relations, amid disputes over Nato, Africa and the Middle East. The most likely successor is Frank Wisner, a career diplomat now US Ambassador in India.

Felix Rohatyn, the economist, has also been tipped as a candidate.

Mrs Harriman inherited a vast fortune on the death of her third husband, the American diplomat and railroad tycoon Averell Harriman, but it was whittled down by a protracted legal battle with his children.

After an out-of-court settlement late in 1993, she was left with an estimated \$1 million (£5.6 million), real estate worth \$12 million and a majority interest in a Van Gogh painting, *White Roses*, according to Sally Bedell Smith, a biographer.

Obituary, page 19

Flu forces Pope to miss audience

ROME: Anxiety over the Pope's health, which has been frail since his appendix operation last October, resurfaced yesterday when he cancelled his weekly audience because of flu (Richard Owen writes). "Influenza has even entered the house of the Pope," he told pilgrims in St Peter's Square.

The Pope, 76, who had appeared unusually well this week during his meeting with Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, cancelled meetings today with José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, and Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign Minister.

Swiss banks announce £55m payout to Holocaust victims

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

BOWING to more than a year of international pressure, Switzerland's three largest banks announced yesterday that they would pay \$25 million (£16.5 million) to a special account for Holocaust victims.

They stopped short, however, of setting up a compensation fund. Credit Suisse, the Swiss Bank Corporation, and the Union Bank of Switzerland said that the money would be deposited in an open holding account with the Swiss National Bank. They said it would lay the foundations for a "humanitarian" fund and be open to further payments from "other sources, including the Government and the National Bank".

Michael Willi, a spokesman for SBC, said the payment to be made this month, was a recognition of the banks' "unhumanitarian" attitude towards Holocaust victims since the Second World War. "This payment is purely a humanitarian gesture to step beyond what has been in the past an extremely legalistic treatment of the issue." He denied that it was an acknowledgement of "guilt in the banks' dealings with Nazi Germany.

The banks found \$25 million of deposits belonging to mainly Jewish Holocaust victims after they were ordered to search through their accounts in 1962. Last year the banks had another search and yielded \$25 million. Jewish groups claim that there are still billions of dollars of Holocaust funds in Swiss vaults.

There was no reaction yesterday from some of Switzerland's 400 other banks. The big three admitted that they had decided to act because domestic and foreign pressure had reached breaking point.

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Republicans' rising black star steals President's thunder in State of the Union address

Clinton sees deficit and education as challenges for US

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

IT IS rare that a President delivering his annual State of the Union address, one of the high points of Washington pageantry, risks being upstaged by the rival party's response. But President Clinton awoke yesterday to find nearly as many column inches devoted to Julius Caesar Watts, the black congressman from Oklahoma who delivered the Republican response, and who is now dubbed "the great black hope" of the Republican Party.

The battle between two of the nation's most charismatic politicians was dubbed "Bubba meets the Blues". As *The New York* said, it was "a contest between a white Southerner who famously embraces all minorities and a black Southerner who espouses conservatism with powerful self-assurance".

For all the similarities in political technique — aggressive charm and a fervent invocation of homely examples — the messages were starkly different. President Clinton argued that the greatest challenges facing America were domestic — decaying

schools and a gaping deficit — less obvious but as great a threat as the Cold War had been. "We face no immediate threat, but we do have an enemy: the enemy of our time is inaction," he said.

In contrast, Mr Watts, a 39-year old Baptist minister, delivered a sermon on the

Internet's potential. He set out the broad challenges facing the US but which, apart from a trenchant plea for greater social harmony, unravelled into inaccurate claims about American scientific achievements and an over-optimistic view of the Internet's potential.

In Tuesday's address, Mr Clinton hit the big themes successfully, as well as announcing a list of specific plans. He made education his main priority, and delivered a ten-point plan, which ranged from tax credits to help finance further education to encouragement for parents to read to their infants.

At the same time as calling for Republicans and Democrats to work together, Mr Clinton pointed to three areas of "unfinished business" where the White House is likely to clash with the Republican-controlled Congress: softening the harshest edges of last year's welfare legislation, reforming laws on financing election campaigns, and balancing the federal budget.

Mr Clinton emphasised that his budget for 1998, which he presents to Congress today, is a handful of brief references to

We face no threat but we do have an enemy: the enemy of our time is inaction

shortcomings of national government and the importance of moral values. "The strength of America is not in Washington. The strength of America is at home, in lives well lived in the land of faith and family."

For Mr Clinton, the performance was a sharp improvement on his inaugural speech two weeks ago, which attempted



President Clinton waving to the House of Representatives prior to his speech yesterday. Looking on is Newt Gingrich, the Speaker

plans to bring government spending back into line with its income by 2002. The curbs which the national debt imposes on government was the unspoken text running through the address: while the role Mr Clinton sketched for government sounded ambitious, in practice the extra small.

In contrast, Mr Watts made a handful of brief references to

policy, turning instead to homespun wisdom. His performance clinched his image as a rising star among Republicans. Television networks, scrambling to splice the O.J. Simpson verdict into the presidential address, made comparisons between the disgrace of one black hero and the emergence of another.

Mr Watts, a star football quarterback in the late 1970s, was an inspired choice for the Republicans, who suffered last year when Bob Dole, in the middle of his bid for the presidency, insisted on making the speech and gave a lacklustre performance.

Judging by the speeches, the gulf between the parties is wide, one side calling for active government, the other for government to pull back further. In reality, as today's budget will show, the gulf is rhetorical: it is the national debt, more than ideology, which currently determines what government can do.

Leading article, page 17

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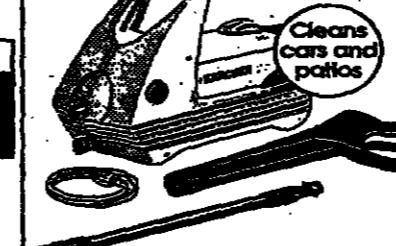
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US general hints at separate training for women soldiers

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

IN A rare reappraisal of feminist and liberal-influenced practices, the US Army may return to pre-1974 training routines which separate men from women.

General Dennis Reimer, the army's Chief of Staff, told a Senate committee that "gender-integrated" training may need to be given a long, cold look after a spate of allegations about sexual harassment in the military.

It is feared that, when they put women alongside fighting men, the military authorities underestimated the difficulty of persuading the male recruits to behave like gentlemen: "We have to lay that all out and look at it and make a determination as to what is best," General Reimer said.

The actress complained of frequent headaches and underwent tests last weekend, which revealed the tumour in the left, front part of her brain.

It is the latest in a long line of ailments, including back pain and respiratory difficulties.

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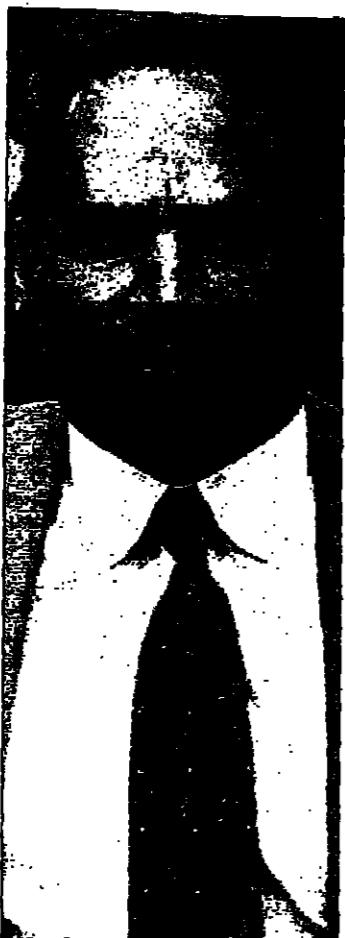
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Former footballer stands to lose everything in civil action over death of ex-wife and her friend

OJ Simpson facing ruin after \$8.5m court defeat



Simpson: bodyguards led him from court to car

THE defeat of O.J. Simpson in his second trial has left him facing financial ruin and Americans contemplating a racial rift as deep as any since the case began with two killings in 1994.

The unanimous verdict in the civil action, and the award of \$8.5 million (£5.2 million) damages against him, by a jury of nine whites and no blacks was the bluntest possible rejection of Mr Simpson's acquittal by a mainly black jury in his murder trial 16 months ago. It leaves him free but vilified and paves the way for punitive damages that could strip him of everything except his pension. "Thank God for some justice for Ron and Nicole," Fred Goldman said after the verdict, referring to his murdered son and Mr Simpson's former wife. "Our family is grateful for a verdict of responsibility, which is all we have ever wanted."

His words found echoes throughout prosperous middle-class America, where a white majority condemned the first Simpson trial as a shameful parody, warped by the "race card" and ignoring hard scientific evidence. But many blacks saw Tuesday's reversal of fortune as an object lesson in white domination of the justice system.

In an ABC poll taken minutes after the verdict was relayed to television cameras, barely one in four of those who agreed with it was black. "The fact that there were

no blacks on the jury means he did not have a trial of his peers," Danny Bakewell, of the Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade, said.

A Los Angeles Times survey indicated a city even more polarised than the rest of the country, with 70 per cent of whites but only 10 per cent of blacks saying that they believed Mr Simpson killed Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Police outside the Santa Monica courthouse were ready for riots but had to cope only with jubilant and

6 He lied and lied
and lied and he got
caught, got caught,
got caught ?

largely white crowds pressing for a glimpse of the victorious Goldman family and boozing Mr Simpson as his bodyguard led him to his car. Minutes earlier, Mr Goldman had clenched his fist and yelled "Yes!" so loudly that he was admonished to control himself as the bailiff read the jury's simple answer to the question: "Do you, by a preponderance of the evidence, find that O.J. Simpson wilfully and wrongfully caused the death of Ronald Goldman?"

A white "Y" appeared in the

window of a mobile studio linked to a microphone in the courtroom, from which television cameras were banned, confirming the result to a nation torn between watching the verdict and the State of the Union address.

Staring across the courtroom through tears of relief, Kim Goldman, Ronald's sister, yelled at an impassive Simpson: "Oh my God, you're a murderer!"

Arms held aloft in triumph, the Goldman family emerged from a courthouse bathed in television lights to hear a crowd of perhaps a thousand chanting the Queen song, *We Are The Champions*. They were led by a slow phalanx of police to a nearby hotel where, choking back sobs, Mr Goldman said that the verdict had been reached "with honesty, dignity and complete truth", and that "Ron would be proud".

Despite covering familiar ground, the four-month civil trial differed radically from the criminal one in its speed, intensity and discipline. Crucially for the victims' families, Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki ruled out the "Dream Team" defence tactic of putting the police on trial instead of Mr Simpson.

This time the case hinged not on Detective Mark Fuhrman's use of the word "nigger", but on a four-day showdown between the fallen hero of American football and a fiery civil lawyer, Daniel Petrocelli.

Forced to give evidence or face



Fred Goldman with his daughter Kim, centre, and wife Patti, after they heard the verdict



The victims, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman

contempt-of-court charges, Mr Simpson appeared to seal his own fate by swearing that he had never beaten his wife despite having confessed to just that in 1989, and by insisting that he had never owned a pair of "ugly ass" Italian shoes whose prints were found at the crime scene. When shown 31 photographs of him wearing them, he called the pictures fakes.

"He lied and lied and lied," Mr Petrocelli said in closing arguments. "And he got caught, got caught, got caught."

Justice the loser, page 16

Ruling widens black-white divide

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THIS time it was black America's turn to be outraged. This time it was the whites who ran into the streets to honk car horns, clap "high fives" and holler "Yes!" at the outcome of the O.J. Simpson case in a California courthouse.

Just as happened two years ago in the first Simpson trial, the jury's decision created racial rancour across the United States — once called humanity's great melting-pot. What should never have been more than a grubby little slaying on Tinseltown's peripheries yet again proved a most contentious killing.

Official America might not

like it and the television networks, which did so much originally to promote this tawdry case, might try to make the nation watch the country's President as he gave a sober, set-piece speech. However, in the hoods and the 'burbs and the echoing caverns of American common opinion, the outcome boiled down, again, to black and white.

In New York, theatregoers sacrificed their night out to watch news of the ruling on the giant television screen in Times Square. "Guilty, at last" a young white woman said. "They got him!" However,

er, a couple of miles north in Harlem, the reaction was very different: anger that O.J., carrying the black man's burden, had been tripped up by the Goldman's white lawyers. "They were never going to give up," sighed a black friend in despair. "But how can he be found innocent in the murder trial and then have to pay damages?"

It was a black lawyer, Johnnie Cochran, who played the race card in the first trial and attacked the suspect past of a white cop. "This chapter is now over," said Mr Cochran, after Tuesday night's result. Dream on, brother. He

should have been in Downtowner Saloon in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where white customers bayed delight that "justice" had been done. He should have been at Mezzaluna, the Los Angeles restaurant where Nicole Brown Simpson ate her last supper, as diners stopped talking and watched the news live on television.

It did not help that the sole black juror had been kicked out in the last week over a smudged juror questionnaire. "How can you have a California jury without a single black?" asked Mr Simpson's supporters.

Eight questions that jurors had to answer

THE jurors answered "yes" to seven questions. They will now have to consider punitive damages in respect of questions 3, 4, 6 and 7. If they had said "no" to 1 and 5, they would have ignored the other questions. They were asked:

Do you find by a preponderance of the evidence that defendant Simpson:

1. Wilfully and wrongfully caused the death of Ronald Goldman?
2. Committed battery against Ronald Goldman?

Do you find by clear and convincing

evidence that defendant Simpson:

3. Committed oppression in the conduct upon which you base your finding of liability for battery against Ronald Goldman?
4. Committed malice in the conduct upon which you base your finding of liability for battery against Goldman?

Do you find by a preponderance of the evidence that defendant Simpson:

5. Committed battery against Nicole Brown Simpson?
6. Asked how much money Goldman's parents should receive for loss of their son's companionship, jurors decided on \$8.5 million.

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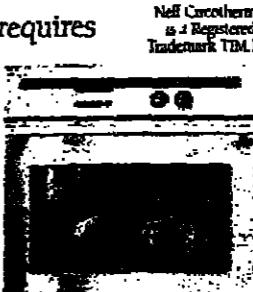
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Rebels set Mobutu two-week deadline to give up power

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

ZAIRE'S rebel leader yesterday gave President Mobutu two weeks to relinquish power or face removal by force in an offensive that has gathered momentum and confounded foreign mercenaries.

Laurent Kabila, the leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation Congo-Zaire, said in the palace in Goma — "liberated" from sub-Saharan's longest reigning President — that Mr Mobutu had until February 21 to stand down. "Otherwise he will face a major offensive to remove him," the veteran rebel leader said.

In the past the campaign was little more than a dream. Faced with a threat of communist expansion in Africa, Zaire's leader enjoyed the protection of Western powers who turned a blind eye to his abuses of power in a territory the size of Western Europe.

"Unless Mobutu can come to the table and agree to relinquish power, I will have him removed by military force. The only option left for Mobutu is to negotiate a handover," Mr Kabila said.

Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa za Banga, changed his name from Joseph Désiré Mobutu during his drive for "Africanisation" in the 1970s. The name translates as the "cockeral who jumps all the chicks in the farmyard".

With the end of the Cold War, Mr Mobutu has few friends abroad and is fighting for his political survival against the most successful uprising in his 31-year tenure in office, and against cancer which is believed to have

spread throughout his body. This week he has been in Rabat, visiting his old supplier, King Hassan of Morocco. In 1977 and 1978, Morocco sent troops to put down anti-Mobutu uprisings but this time his pleas for help are unlikely to be heeded.

His enemies are east Zaire's rebel fighters, many of whom have fought in civil wars in Uganda and Rwanda and have driven Zaire's regular army ahead of their advance with little trouble. In nearly four months of fighting, Mr Kabila's forces have taken a

swath of eastern Zaire stretching more than 600 miles, virtually from the Zambian border in the south, towards Sudan and Uganda in the north.

Last month the Government

launched a counter-offensive backed by an estimated 300 mercenaries, many of them Serbs and Croats. European soldiers are unused to the disease, heat and poor food of Central Africa. So far the mercenaries have proved no match for the rebels, who are dominated by ethnic Tutsis trained in Uganda and Rwanda.

Red Cross pulls out Rwanda workers

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Red Cross said yesterday that it was withdrawing most of its aid workers from Rwanda after the murder of five United Nations human rights workers in the country.

One of the victims, a Briton, was named as Graham Turnbull, the leader of a team of UN human rights monitors in the Cyangugu region where the ambush took place.

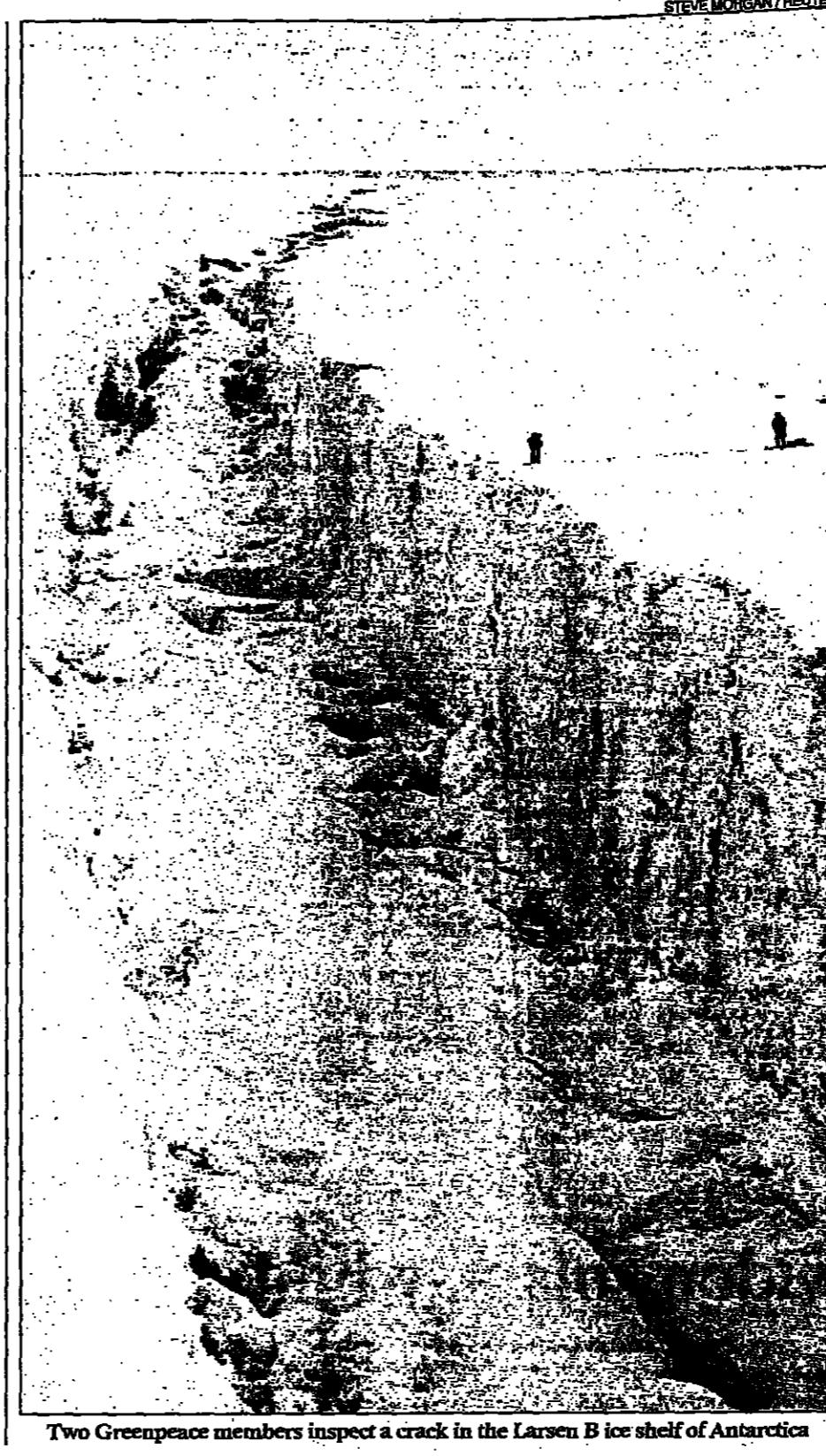
Twenty-five delegates would leave for Nairobi in the next two days with only a core staff of six remaining in Kigali, the capital, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said. "This is not a decision we take lightly," said a spokesman. But it was necessary after the escalation of violence over the past weeks.

Gunmen ambushed the UN workers in southwestern Rwanda on Tuesday. Four, including Mr Turnbull, were killed immediately, the fifth, an interpreter, died later. The others were a Cambodian and three Rwandans.

They were killed while visiting the commune of Karengera in Cyangugu, about 200 miles southwest of Kigali on the Zairean border, in a marked UN vehicle. There were no details of who carried out the ambush, but Hutu extremists are suspected.

About 40,000 Rwandan refugees fled encampments in the Shabunda area of eastern Zaire yesterday after reports that rebels had taken a nearby town, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said in Geneva.

Local authorities said the refugees left after it was reported in the area that Katsunga, a small town about 25 miles northeast of Shabunda, had fallen.



Two Greenpeace members inspect a crack in the Larsen B ice shelf of Antarctica

Big rifts appear in Antarctic ice shelf

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

HUGE cracks have appeared in a vast Antarctic ice shelf whose northern section collapsed two years ago, an Argentine expert says.

Dr Rudi del Valle, director of geology with the Argentine Antarctic Institute, said he was convinced that the 4,600 square mile Larsen B ice shelf would collapse within two years. "It will be destroyed without any doubt," he said, after flying over the shelf with members of Greenpeace. "We saw a lot of cracks and ice rifts ... and big holes in the ice shelf. And we don't have an explanation for them."

Two years ago the neighbouring Larsen A ice shelf disappeared and an iceberg the size of Oxfordshire floated away. This was attributed to a rise in temperatures of 2.5C in the area over the past half century. Before the collapse it had become criss-crossed with deep cracks, some 30 miles long and 100ft wide.

Greenpeace sent two helicopters from its ship, *Arctic Sunrise*, over Larsen B yesterday and reported that the surface of the shelf is riven with cracks and deep fissures.

Scientists at the British Antarctic Survey yesterday examined recent satellite images of the ice shelf to see if they could spot similar changes. Dr Tom Lachlan-Cope said the resolution of the images was too low to detect cracks, but melt pools were visible. "These have been quite common in the past few years," he said.

The state of the ice shelves is one of the most sensitive indicators of changing global temperatures. *Arctic Sunrise* has been in Antarctica for the past two weeks to document signs of climate change.

Memoirs test Manhattan's love affair with Woody

By QUENTIN LETTS

IN A devastating second salvo, the American actress Mia Farrow yesterday attacked her former lover, Woody Allen, publishing memoirs that describe in detail the break-up of their 12-year relationship after she discovered he had fallen in love with her young adopted daughter, Soon-Yi.

Mia Farrow's *What Falls Away* did good business within hours of bookshops opening in the couple's home city of New York. It came after disclosures earlier this week in a television interview.

The book depicts the filmmaker as a troubled, anti-social man who professed "no interest" in children, yet allegedly would strip to his underpants to cuddle a six-year-old girl. Ms Farrow writes that he is rude to his parents, didactic, and a man who even at the height of his love affair with the waif-like actress would have his lawyer go over domestic matters.

Another mainstay of his existence, she writes, is his psychiatrist. He calls psychotherapy his "crutch".

During their relationship — conducted from separate houses on opposite sides of

were to have together was a boy his interest dropped like a stone.

When Ms Farrow found photographs of a naked Soon-Yi that Mr Allen seemingly had taken, she told him to "get away from us". He said that he was trying to improve the teenager's "confidence".

Ms Farrow is "just a lepid little affair that probably shouldn't have lasted more than a few weeks longer anyway" — told Soon-Yi she shouldn't expect anything. When Ms Farrow told Soon-Yi's father, the conductor André Previn, Mr Allen fell to the floor and clutched his stomach. Mr Previn was disgusted.

The memoirs will test to the limit New York's high regard for Mr Allen, long a favourite film-maker. His films have mirrored what Manhattan "society" likes to think it is.

In recent months, Mr Allen has become more visible around town, accompanied by the meek Soon-Yi, whose hand he holds like a lead. A 27-page appendix to the book publishes in full the state supreme court decision of her 1993 child custody battle with Mr Allen.

Air disaster fuels row over Lebanon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MYSTERY last night surrounded the cause of Israel's worst military air disaster on Tuesday which left 73 servicemen dead and plunged the Jewish State into national mourning.

The loss of the helicopters — which were headed towards southern Lebanon's war zone — led Shimon Peres, the former Labour Prime Minister, to introduce a political element into the grieving.

He argued in an interview from Switzerland that "though this is not the time for blame, the time has come to put an end to this involvement in Lebanon ... We will end up making the same concessions in the end, but only after more blood has been split."

Mr Peres said he did not back the growing clamour for a unilateral withdrawal from the nine-mile wide "buffer zone" which Israel has occupied since its forces pulled out of the rest of Lebanon in 1985. However, he said: "There is a price for peace with Lebanon and with Syria, and we must pay it." The loss was "a reminder that we are still fighting with illusions."

The agony of Jews from every level of society at the



Biko: became martyr to anti-apartheid struggle

Poison claim in Biko death

Johannesburg: Claims that Steve Biko may have been poisoned and not beaten to death as widely believed, are being investigated by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Irvin Gilmore writes).

Dumisa Ntsebeza, the commission's chief investigator, said a document alleged that brain damage which the Black Consciousness leader suffered before he died in detention may have been caused by poison.

Biko, who died in a prison hospital in 1977, became a martyr of the anti-apartheid struggle and the claims will renew interest in his case.

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TI 53



Dr Thomas Stuttaford
on treatment for an irritating condition, why Koo Stark is having a healthy pregnancy, a strange cure for warts and the links between high blood pressure, exercise and strokes

A syndrome that can make your life misery

When I was growing up in Norfolk, one of our neighbours, Miss Hodgson, the elderly spinster daughter of a local parson, brought her own charcoal biscuits with her whenever she called for a cup of tea or coffee.

She explained that she suffered from colitis and that without her charcoal biscuits her day would be ruined by the abdominal pain, and other symptoms too intimate to mention, which would have been induced by my mother's biscuits.

Miss Hodgson was my introduction to irritable bowel syndrome, which 60 years ago was often referred to as mucous, or spastic colitis. Since then I — like all other doctors — have seen hundreds, probably thousands, of cases of irritable bowel syndrome and it is the most common reason why patients are referred to gastro-intestinal clinics for further investigations.

The term colitis should be reserved for the inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, the infective dysenteries, or rarities such as ischaemic colitis or the inflammation of the bowel which follows radiotherapy. It should not be used for irritable bowel syndrome, which is not life threatening, even though it can destroy someone's peace of mind as well as the serenity of their guts.

Irritable bowel syndrome is characterised by five symptoms. Abdominal swelling, which Miss Hodgson was prepared to talk about in front of a young boy, abdominal pain (also mentioned in polite society, although the fact that the pain is relieved by a visit to the lavatory is not so readily discussed), nor are the frequent bowel movements, excessive wind and the passing of mucus. Even after defecation there is some sensation that the mission has not been successfully completed.

There are two other variants of the irritable bowel syndrome. One is now referred to as functional diarrhoea, which in my undergraduate days was known as intestinal hurry. It is this trouble which grips the public speaker's intestines so savagely that he is unable to eat before his

A meal with a lover can be a particular problem

Classically, sufferers from functional diarrhoea have urgent and frequent defecation in the morning, but are in command of their bowels for the rest of the day. Symptoms can be troublesome at other times if they have to endure a tense meal, perhaps with a boss or would-be lover — particularly if the meal ends with too strong a cup of coffee. After their morning activities some patients feel so exhausted that they need a quick sleep before setting forth for the day.

The third variant of the irritable bowel is that of primary motility of the fore gut. This is more common in women than men and causes bloating, loss of appetite, nausea and abdominal pain which is often on the right side.

Irritable bowel syndrome should not be confused with inflammatory bowel disease. Inflammatory bowel disease can cause very serious disability if not carefully treated. A new preparation, Entocort enema, has been introduced recently which will help patients with ulcerative colitis.

Entocort budesonide is one of the better steroid preparations for treating inflammatory bowel diseases as it is most effective in those places where it is needed — the intestines — but does not suppress blood levels of cortisol as much as other steroids and therefore has fewer side-effects.

A preparation of Entocort capsules taken by mouth was introduced about a year ago to treat Crohn's disease, which can affect any part of the gastro-intestinal tract from the mouth to the anus. The new enema will be particularly useful for patients with ulcerative colitis, which only attacks the large bowel.

Whatever the cause of the patient's troubles, whether socially inconvenient and very uncomfortable irritable bowel syndrome, or the potentially serious or inflammatory bowel conditions, any patient who has disturbance with their

The day my son went out and buried a problem



Homoeopathy: hard to prove

reported in the magazine *Dermatology*, was double blind and randomised.

Sixty children were treated by homoeopathic preparations or with a placebo. A

reduction by half in the area of the skin affected by warty growths was considered successful. Seven of the placebo-treated children had this measure of response, and nine of those treated by the homoeopaths did equally well. Statisticians say the difference is not significant.

When one of my sons was young, I treated the warts on his hands for many months with very limited success. Suddenly, all my son's warts vanished — but then he admitted that he had despised of his father's feeble efforts and had consulted one of his knowledgeable schoolfellows.

The boy prescribed rubbing the wart with old ham, then burying it in the garden. My son did this — and his warts went in a week.

An exercise in stroke avoidance

common causes of ischaemic strokes from disturbed clots.

Poor control of blood pressure is responsible for many strokes. Although great benefit in their prevention is achieved by reducing the blood pressure to under 150/90, only a third of patients who have strokes achieve control as good as this. Studies have shown that poor control is attained even when patients, and their doctors, know that more than 60 per cent of those who have a stroke suffer from a cerebral haemorrhage, one of the types of stroke.

Sudden exercise, the quick sprint to the train, for instance, or violent exercise in the gym, can also make the heart beat irregularly, one of the very

study of nearly 800 practices. This showed that one-third of the doctors were not aware of the rather liberal guidelines laid down by the British Hypertension Society, which suggests that blood pressure should be kept below 160/100. Fifteen per cent of general practitioners didn't recommend any treatment until blood pressure was over 170.

Recent research has shown that not only is blood pressure still badly controlled in this country, but not all the drugs used are equally effective when the patient is exercising. In particular, some newer calcium channel blockers are not so efficient when the patient starts to exercise as were the older preparations such as verapamil, Securon, which controls blood pressure even when doing PT.



Koo Stark is the picture of health — but this may be due to meditation rather than medication

Safe remedies to protect mother and baby

Koo Stark's good health relies less on medication and more on meditation than that of most people. Even Koo, however, must have suffered some of the inconveniences of pregnancy and wondered what was safe to take to relieve them and which preparations could damage her baby.

Ann Lee, a pharmacist at Glasgow Royal Infirmary writing in the journal *General Practitioner*, recently gave some straightforward advice to doctors and patients on the drugs which can be used safely during pregnancy.

Doctors tend to err on the side of caution when treating pregnant women, and no surgery desk is complete without a copy of *Mims*, the national formulary and *Marmatec* pharmacopoeia. I took up

Tea and biscuits in bed can help morning sickness

Urinary tract and chest infections are more common in pregnancy than at

other times. The penicillins, cephalosporins, such as Cephalexin, and erythromycin are all safe. Tetracyclines, drugs of the gentamicins and the quinolones such as Ciprofloxacin, should be avoided. Flagyl (metronidazole and trimethoprim) is, for theoretical reasons, best avoided in the first three months of pregnancy.

No account of diet in pregnancy is complete without mention of the vexed question of alcohol. Severe alcoholics sometimes have children who suffer from the foetal alcohol syndrome: the child is small, retarded and has the classic deformities which give it a pidgeon-like appearance. Smaller, but still heavy amounts of alcohol regularly consumed can cause a modified form of this syndrome, the foetal alcohol effect, which results in smaller, less bright children. It is wise to restrict alcohol intake to two drinks on any one occasion, and not more than seven in a week.

GP magazine suggests that it is worth trying such drugs as antihistamines or Stemetil, which may help. Doctors' inability to treat vomiting and nausea in early pregnancy is illustrated by the journal's suggestion that it would be worth trying the type of bracelet worn by yachts-people to ward off sea sickness.

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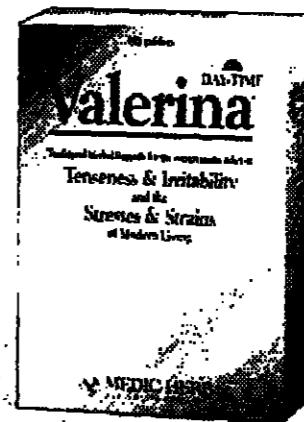
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The oil on canvas *Old Woman with a Cup* by Giuseppe Nogari valued at £7,000 to £10,000

YEARS

Thirty-five years ago it was unique. Since 1962, The Sunday Times Magazine has been cloned around the world. Today it has more readers than ever. On Sunday a special anniversary issue features a selection of the words and pictures that established its reputation.

YEARS

Sotheby's and the Art of Smuggling

In a new book serialised by The Times, author Peter Watson exposes Sotheby's role in the illegal traffic in Old Masters



EARLY in the evening of Sunday March 3, 1991, there was a knock on the door of my house in Chelsea, west London. It was James Hodges. Outside in the road was a Morris Oxford, a 1960

model with gleaming chrome and old-fashioned tailfins. Hodges drove and we headed off west along the King's Road. I had known him for less than a week. Our first meeting had taken place the Friday before, at his house in Shepherds Bush. What he had told me initially was that he had worked for Sotheby's auction house for more than a decade, that for a lot of the time he had been involved in unethical and illegal practices, and that he had in his possession enormous amounts of documentation from Sotheby's which, he claimed, showed that wrongdoing was rife.

He also said that Sotheby's had a good inkling of what he had squirrelled away and that, although he had left the company honourably in 1989 with eight months' pay, it had later caused him to be charged on two counts of theft from its premises.

He had been arrested about a year before and had spent the weekend in a cell at West End Central police station at Savile Row. His case was to come to trial later that year.

He also told me that one night he had come home to find two Italian antiquities dealers sitting in his living room. They had heard he

had left Sotheby's and wanted to make sure he would not reveal anything about their dealings with the company. They were civil enough, on that occasion, said Hodges, though there was no doubt in his mind that their visit was a form of threat. Hodges added that he and a friend had on occasions posed as dustmen and rummaged through the bins of several Sotheby's directors to see if they could find anything incriminating to help his defence.

The Morris Oxford followed the King's Road as it curved around World's End and passed alongside the common at Parson's Green. At the far end of the common was a pub, the White Horse. Hodges parked the car, we got out and climbed to an upstairs room. That night I was shown three suitcases of documents. Some were on Sotheby's letterhead, others on blue internal memo forms or yellow property cards. Some were franked with Sotheby's internal franking machine. Some were signed or initialled by people I knew and whose signatures I recognised.

Amid all the documents, however, there was indeed prima facie evidence of widespread, long-term wrongdoing inside Sotheby's. It was not clear in the White Horse how far these activities extended throughout the company, but what did seem evident was that key individuals in specialist departments were involved.

FROM NAPLES TO LONDON

The Italian job

That evening was for me the start of a six-year investigation into Sotheby's. I narrowed down the paperwork to 502 key documents, consisting of more than 800 sheets, and apparently showing wrongdoing in 22 areas.

The investigation was by no means straightforward. To begin with, when Hodges went on trial that November, he was charged not only with theft, but with false accounting and forgery.

He claimed in his defence that he was but a small part of a much wider ring of wrongdoing at Sotheby's. Some of his superiors made damaging admissions in court (such as that they had falsified documents) but although Hodges was acquitted on 15 counts, he was convicted on one count of theft, another of false accounting, and a third of forgery. He went to jail for five months.

The conviction for forgery was clearly worrying and meant that although documents he had passed to me seemed genuine, independent corroboration was essential. To help me, I enlisted the aid of a colleague, Bernard Clark, a television journalist with his own company, and we persuaded David Lloyd, editor of *Dispatches* at Channel 4, that the documents were worth investigating. Clark brought in as producer for the programme a very talented and rather younger man than either of us, Sam Bagnall.

No area of subsequent investigation, which led to two programmes and this book, proved to be more shocking than the wrongdoing we unearthed in the area of Italian Old Master paintings.

There were maybe 50 or 60 pages of documents which appeared to show that the company smuggled Old Master paintings out of Italy to England, where they were sold at auction in London. The documents identified the Milan office as the headquarters of this illegal traffic and several identified paintings by name and artist.

We needed to put to the test this outline of the clandestine trade as it was revealed in the

documents. It was, therefore, our intention to take an Italian Old Master to Sotheby's Milan office, ask them to sell it in London, and then sit back and see what they did.

We had bought a painting in Naples, a portrait by the 18th-century artist Giuseppe Nogari. Naples was a long way from Milan, and Sotheby's had no office there. The art trade is a very small world and we did not want to risk a picture that was familiar.

Now that we had a painting,

useful at some future stage. The name at Sotheby's Milan office which the documents mentioned most often was Nancy Neilson, an American. However, she no longer worked there and our inquiries showed that her place as Old Masters expert had been taken by one Roeland Kollweij, who was Dutch. It was he whom Victoria called late on the morning of Wednesday March 27.

She explained to him that she was an Australian and was in Italy for only a few moments. After a few moments, Kollweij arrived. He was a short, slight, blond-haired, good-looking man with rimless spectacles. He liked the painting but said it wasn't suitable for the international market. He then added: 'The difference between the international market and local Italian market is when you've got the high-level stuff... if you have something for the international market, a beautiful Guido Reni or a Raphael... then you go well over the Italian price.'

'This is not an international market picture. But if you have international quality, you really should send it away. It's very important. You know, if you have a Canaletto or a Guardi... out.'

Victoria left the painting with Kollweij. He had hinted that smuggling still went on, but only with more valuable paintings than we possessed. We decided to sleep on it.

That evening I looked at the documents again. It was only when I was faced with the wording in the paperwork that I understood. Many of the people mentioned were people who consigned pictures regularly. In other words, Sotheby's would do something for them they wouldn't do for a first-time, relative stranger such as Victoria. As I digested all this, I realised that we had to raise the stakes — and persuade Kollweij that we were worth his while.

By 8am London time, Friday morning, I was on the telephone to Victoria. I explained that I wanted Victoria to go into Sotheby's in Milan that day, but unannounced. Her sudden arrival would emphasise her keenness to deal with him, to make the sale happen.

Victoria was also to explain that she had talked to her sister in Sydney, and that the sister had instructed her to tell Kollweij about the other paintings in their 'collection'. The composition of the collection was all-important. Kollweij, we now knew, was impressed by the Nogari. The artist was scarcely a well-



Roeland Kollweij, Old Masters expert at Sotheby's in Milan

days. She asked if she could see Kollweij quickly. He agreed.

Sotheby's offices in the Via Broggi are discreet, located in a quiet, fashionable area between the public gardens and the central station. Besides Victoria's psychological preparation, Sam Bagnall had also prepared her electronically. In her bag she carried a state-of-the-art tape recorder. No less important, hidden inside a crystal brooch pinned to her lapel, was a tiny fish-eye camera whose wire ran under her jacket to a Hi-8 tape machine, about the size of a cigarette packet, pinned safely inside her pocket.

We spent days briefing her. In the first instance, Victoria was to be vague about exactly what she had inherited. We also gave her a 'sister'. This sister had children and so could not leave Sydney, but she knew more about art and the art world than Victoria did. We thought this might be

useful. She stepped into Sotheby's. She carried the Nogari in a plain paper bag, double-wrapped in bubble plastic and brown paper and sealed with masking tape. When Victoria asked for

Blair must democratise town halls

Margaret Hodge wants voters, not councillors, to elect mayors

Elected executive mayors for Britain's towns and cities. That is an idea which will be debated at this weekend's Labour local government conference. Would it give us better local government and would it create stronger local democracy?

The legacy Labour will inherit from the Tories is a mess. We have had 18 years of experiments and changes, including some complete disasters, like the poll tax. All this has left us with many poor services and many demoralised councillors.

It is no wonder that talented people shy away from standing for election to their local council. It is no wonder that 80 per cent of the current batch of councillors are over 45, one third are retired and only one in four is a woman. It is no wonder that only 31 per cent of us bothered to vote at the local elections last year.

New Labour wants change for local government. We want better public services and we want stronger local democracy. It is not healthy to have everything run by Whitehall or by ministers; that places too much power in the hands of too few people. Equally, we do not want to return to the Tammany Hall days of the 1960s and 1970s. The new millennium demands a new approach.

Local government today needs to fulfil different roles, so we need new institutions to deliver the new purposes. That is why we are thinking about elected mayors.

Towns and cities compete in a way they didn't a generation ago. In Britain, Manchester competes with London for millennium cash. In Europe, Liverpool competes with cities in Spain and Germany to build the Ford Escort. In the global economy, Derbyshire competes with Tokyo to produce television sets.

We need a strong voice for our towns and cities. Someone to promote the area, to fight on our behalf for inward investment and public resources.

Nobody knows who the town clerk is and few people know their council leader. However, an elected mayor, such as Jacques Chirac in Paris, would have a high public profile and more political weight.

Some people argue that the cult of personality in politics is a bad thing. But well-known, forceful leaders are more effective in fighting the corner for their community. And we will all know where the buck stops.

No longer would we need to ring the town hall to complain only to deal with anonymous bureaucrats. With an elected mayor, there will be clarity on who ultimately is responsible.

There are other changes, too. Today, we understand better that if we are to get things done, we cannot leave it to the Government or the council alone. The police alone cannot reduce crime, the local authority alone cannot create jobs and the public sector by itself cannot reduce pollution. We need local authorities to work with the private sector, with schools, colleges and

training and enterprise councils to create jobs. We need the police to work with local communities and public bodies like health and education to cut crime.

But someone has to lead and develop the partnership we need. That is a new job for local government and it requires a new form of strong leadership, which an elected mayor could give. It is no longer about local councils doing it all from the town hall; it is about getting others to work together and act. That is different and we need a new sort of leadership in our town halls to rise to the occasion.

In the past, local councils have looked inward. Decisions are taken in secret in political party meetings. Attention has focused on the needs of the workforce and not the needs of the public. The leader of the council is elected by the party caucus, so he or she depends on the party, not the public, for the job. Council committees concentrate on managing services, not on a broader strategy.

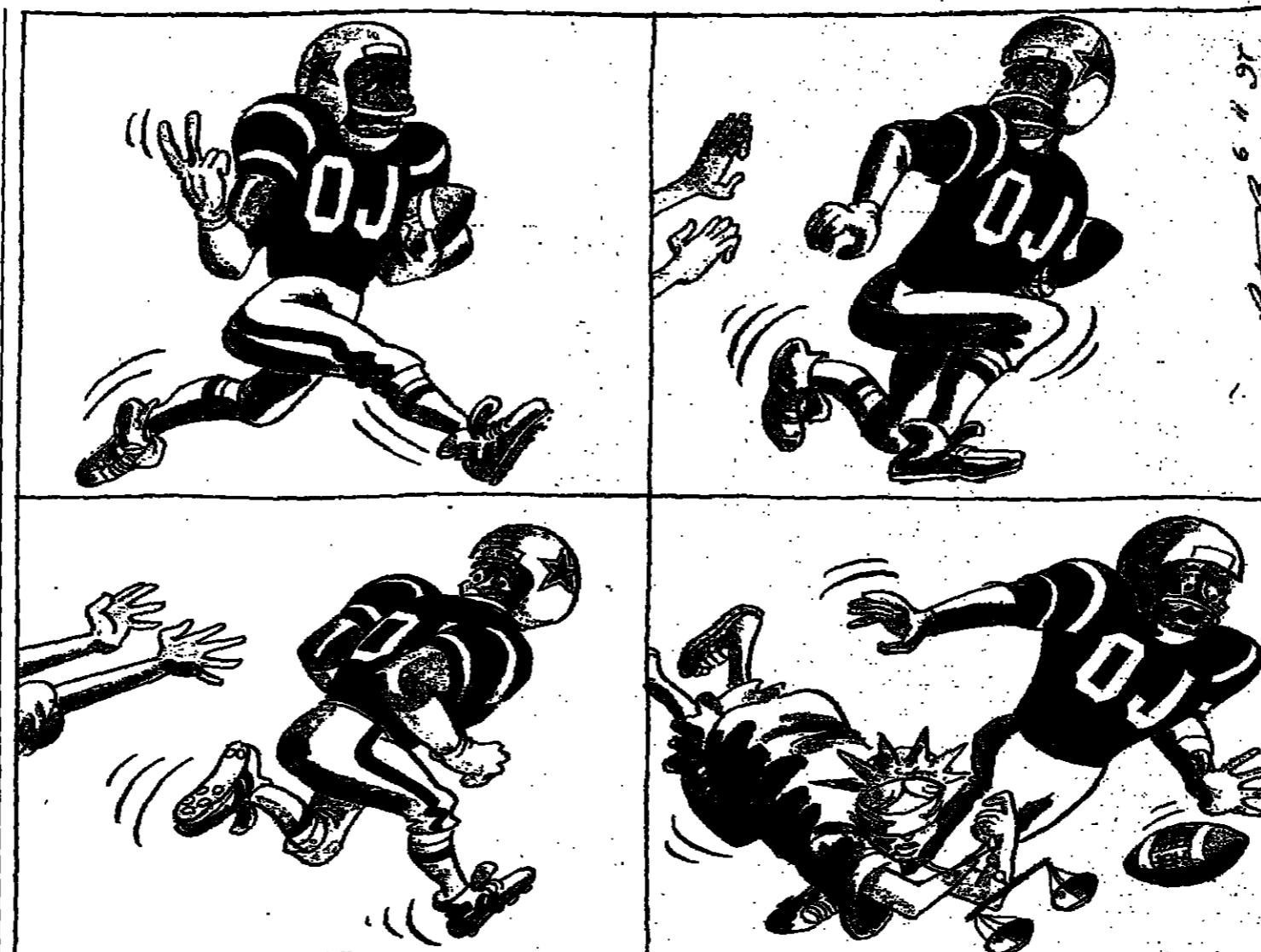
An elected mayor could change this. If the mayor depended on the voters for his re-election, he or she would put them first. He would have to argue in open, not in secret, to build support for his policies. He would represent the public interest first, not the producer interest of those who work for the council.

People like the idea of elected mayors. A survey in 1995 found that 70 per cent of voters supported the concept, but only 16 per cent of councillors liked the notion. That in itself is telling and shows we should not just listen to the vested interests. But more of us would vote for a directly elected mayor, who could well have a more exciting job than a backbench MP.

Most other countries elect their mayors and it works well. We can make sure that with a system of checks and balances it does not lead to new corruption. Tony Blair has said that Labour in government would seek volunteers to test the concept. However, if the survey is right, local councillors may not willingly grasp the opportunity to act as pilot authorities. A Labour government could encourage authorities by offering extra resources or extra powers. But if that too, fails to entice volunteers, it may prove necessary for government to select a number of councils and insist that they work with elected mayors so that we can learn.

In London, a number of people are already saying they would like the job. On the Conservative side, Steven Norris and David Mellor have made positive noises. On the Labour side, Tony Banks would jump at the chance. For all of us, if it might bring some fun and excitement back into politics, it would certainly help to kick-start the renewal of local democracy, and that must surely be a good thing.

The author is Labour MP for Barking and a former leader of Islington council.



Mr Brown's big freeze

Labour still thinks ministers know better than markets – its fatal conceit

civil servants, senior officers, senior judges, the people with the heaviest public responsibilities.

There is no reason to think that these people are overpaid for what they do. The State has always been a bad paymaster. These salaries are only a fraction of what is now paid in private business for comparable responsibilities. Britain's top business salaries are themselves usually only a fraction of what is paid in the United States. The maximum Civil Service salaries, with which this freeze would be concerned, may be a little more than £150,000 – less than a third of the pay of a leading silk, or a top accountant or City solicitor, about a tenth of the salary and bonus of a successful City fund manager. Yet the salaries to be frozen go down to a level of about £50,000, and there are, of course, many more of them. Britain needs to bring state pay much closer to private sector pay if the State is to continue to attract the best talent. As the Americans say: "If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys."

There is nothing fair about this. It is the pay review body that is trying to be fair, by avoiding a further widening of the already huge gap between market-determined salaries in the private sector and politically determined salaries in the public.

Nor is there anything that could be properly called "tough" about it. A politician is not being tough when he appeals to an oversimplified public feeling.

Of course many people who are earning something like £20,000 a year will be pleased to hear that judges who are being paid more than £100,000 a year are not to be given any pay increase.

They do not reflect, or perhaps do not care, that barristers appearing in front of these judges may be earning £50,000 a year, or perhaps a million.

It is for the politician to consider that this disparity of reward means that the best barristers have a strong disincentive to become judges. Mr Brown is not fighting popular sentiment but endorsing it. Even if that were the right thing to do, it would not be courageous.

Mr Brown is still in what might be termed the bishops' stage in his economic studies, that is pre-1776, before Adam Smith, before the American Declaration of Independence. He does not accept that people should have the liberty to seek their own advantage, to choose their own "pursuit of happiness". He mistakenly supposes that so many of the senior state employees are trapped by the eminence of their jobs that pay levels can be imposed on them which fall well below their market value. He does not recognise that underpayment of judges, civil servants and generally will ultimately be reflected in the recruitment of the judges, civil servants and generals of the future.

The more notorious Mr Brown makes the meanness of the State to its most senior servants, the more young aspirants of talent will reject state service. As Adam Smith observed:

"Whenever the law has attempted to regulate the wages of workmen, it has always been rather to lower them than to raise them... every man's interest would prompt him to seek the advantageous and to shun the disadvantageous employment."

Plainly, Mr Brown does not believe in the labour market. But that is not merely an indication of his ignorance, alarming as that ignorance is. Politicians who do not believe in markets generally do believe in something else. They believe in themselves. Mr Brown believes he knows what a civil servant ought to be paid better than the market does, or better than the pay review bodies' assessment of the market. The more one examines that proposition the more grotesque it appears.

Undoubtedly the market is aware of everything. A young woman has to decide whether she should learn Mandarin to seek a job with Swire in Hong Kong or with the Foreign Office in London. Learning Mandarin is a prolonged process with a considerable cost attached to it. Mr Brown does not know of her existence, but the market does. If the young woman is able, Swire will pay her a salary, which will make it attractive for her to learn Mandarin because their business in China will need ever increasing numbers of Mandarin-speakers: they will have to pay her enough for her to choose their offer rather than that of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. All this the market knows, but Mr Brown knows none of it. Yet he thinks he can decide better than the market what long-term pay prospects the Foreign Office needs to hold out to be able to recruit that young woman. The market is a global information system. Gordon Brown is a localised ignorance system.

Robin Cook is enthusiastic about the social chapter and is even wobbling towards a single currency. Mr Brown is set on a pay freeze for the top Civil Service; obviously neither has understood how market economies can be made to work. This leaves Tony Blair more isolated than ever. He may be new Labour, but his party and his most senior colleagues still believe that ministers and bureaucrats can allocate resources better than markets can. That illusion has proved disastrous for every previous Labour government; if the British public sector will not pay the going rate, it will not be able to attract the best people. There will,

indeed, always be some very good people who will work for less than they could get elsewhere, for all sorts of different reasons, but on average every man's interest does "prompt him to seek the advantageous and to shun the disadvantageous employment".

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Undoubtedly the market is aware of everything. A young woman has to decide whether she should learn Mandarin to seek a job with Swire in Hong Kong or with the Foreign Office in London. Learning Mandarin is a prolonged process with a considerable cost attached to it. Mr Brown does not know of her existence, but the market does. If the young woman is able, Swire will pay her a salary, which will make it attractive for her to learn Mandarin because their business in China will need ever increasing numbers of Mandarin-speakers: they will have to pay her enough for her to choose their offer rather than that of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. All this the market knows, but Mr Brown knows none of it. Yet he thinks he can decide better than the market what long-term pay prospects the Foreign Office needs to hold out to be able to recruit that young woman. The market is a global information system. Gordon Brown is a localised ignorance system.

Robin Cook is enthusiastic about the social chapter and is even wobbling towards a single currency. Mr Brown is set on a pay freeze for the top Civil Service; obviously neither has understood how market economies can be made to work. This leaves Tony Blair more isolated than ever. He may be new Labour, but his party and his most senior colleagues still believe that ministers and bureaucrats can allocate resources better than markets can. That illusion has proved disastrous for every previous Labour government; if the British public sector will not pay the going rate, it will not be able to attract the best people. There will,

indeed, always be some very good people who will work for less than they could get elsewhere, for all sorts of different reasons, but on average every man's interest does "prompt him to seek the advantageous and to shun the disadvantageous employment".

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GOING, GOING

Sotheby's must act fast before its reputation has wholly gone

From Cambodia and China to Iraq and Italy, the smuggling of antiquities and works of art is a flourishing illegal business. The lesson for local legislators is everywhere a difficult one: the more draconian the restrictions that are set on legitimate exports, the more active and well-organised the smuggling is likely to be. China, which has a blanket export ban on all but very recent objects, is being pillaged on a massive scale, in some case with the collusion of corrupt officials. Italy, whose cultural inheritance is similarly rich and large, faces similar problems with policing its law requiring export licences for any work that predate 1939.

Britain, by contrast, operates the liberal Waverley rules which impose a delay on the export of particularly important works in order to give the nation a chance to match the price offered by a foreign bidder. That strikes a fair balance between the public interest in keeping truly "national" treasures in the country, respect for private property rights and the belief that art is for the world to enjoy, regardless of frontiers.

This carefully calibrated policy has also made Britain a mecca for the legal international market, helping to establish the global pre-eminence of such great auction houses as Sotheby's and Christie's. But it is not only opportunity that has built their businesses; nor only their expertise; it is their reputation for honesty and integrity in the conduct of their business. The evidence of wrongdoing at Sotheby's which we start serialising today should therefore appal both the art world and the Department of Trade and Industry. The practices uncovered range from the ethically questionable to the plainly illegal. The clear and direct

involvement of Sotheby's employees in art smuggling, the subject of today's article, is inexcusable.

Recorded on tape and by a hidden camera, Roeland Kollewijn, a Sotheby's Old Masters expert in Milan, undertakes to organise the illegal export of a painting by the 18th-century northern Italian artist Giuseppe Nogari to London, for sale by Sotheby's there. At the London end, the painting is duly seen by a member of Sotheby's staff, entered for auction and sold. This classic journalistic sting is backed by a mass of documents and circumstantial evidence, from the Far East as well as Italy, indicating that this was not an isolated case involving one or two bad apples in an otherwise sound barrel.

Mr Kollewijn, who treats the transaction as routine, claims the complicity of his colleagues, saying that if he were an Italian judge he would order writs on Sotheby's in Milan because "they know it's happening all the time" and adding that "if I were in power I would arrest the whole lot" at the Milan office.

Last month the art squad of the Italian carabinieri, announcing a haul worth £25 million of smuggled antiquities illegally excavated from archaeological sites, accused "employees of important international auction houses" of acting as intermediaries. There must be grave doubts about Sotheby's proud claims to operate according to strict rules and to co-operate with governments and law enforcement agencies worldwide in the recovery of stolen or looted objects. The onus is on the company, and on the eminent men and women on its board, to respond to these charges; if it cannot counter them, it should announce forthwith how it proposes to come back within the law.

IRREVERSIBLE OPT-IN

Business should weigh the social chapter's true cost

Britain's opt-out from the social chapter, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, argued yesterday, serves Tory dogma and not national interests. Mr Cook repeated Labour's pledge to sign Britain up to the Maastricht treaty's seven enabling clauses on social affairs. On the previous evening in Brussels, the Prime Minister had not only defended the value of his social opt-out but blamed the Continent's high unemployment rate on over-regulation in general and the social chapter in particular.

John Major cannot be convicted of merely dogmatic repetition. He all too plainly believes his economic achievements to be under threat. But he tends to muddle different kinds of business burdens which inhibit the creation of new jobs in some continental economies. EU obligations make a relatively small contribution to employers' non-wage costs; more damage is done by intricate, accumulated welfare and labour rules established at national level. The Dutch Government lives with the social chapter; by starting its campaign to deregulate its national labour market in the 1980s, The Netherlands is posting job creation figures almost as good as Britain's.

Britain's social opt-out in 1991 called a bluff. No sooner were the Maastricht treaty and its social protocol signed, than the flow of EU social legislation dried up. The regulatory climate in Brussels and continental capitals, although falling well short of realism, did change. Three directives have been passed under the social chapter: mandatory works councils for firms above a certain size, three months paid parental leave, and a shift in the burden of proof towards claimants in discrimination cases. Two other measures are under discussion: extending the works council rules to a much

greater number of companies and a law giving minimum rights on dismissal.

It is no defence of these laws that they will do less harm than some Conservative ministers might like to suggest. Mr Major told his audience in Brussels that "one signature on the social chapter would mean half a million signatures on the dole" — an assertion for which he has produced no evidence or calculation. The case against the social chapter goes far deeper than specific directives. Britain should retain its opt-out because the chapter provides an irreversible opportunity to pass anti-competitive and expensive law at any time. It is not impossible to reverse an EU directive, but no social legislation has yet been repealed.

Mr Major himself has already discovered that a mistake once made cannot be rectified: his retrospective attempt to exempt Britain from the directive limiting the working week to 48 hours stands little chance of success. The fact that there is relatively little law in the Brussels machine at the moment gives no guarantee about the quantity which might be processed in the future.

Businessmen in Britain trying to work out what the social chapter might mean for their companies may turn for consolation to various statements from the Opposition hinting that a Labour government will protect business from damaging EU law. But directives under the broad headings of equal opportunities, "working conditions" and "information" can be passed under the social chapter by majority vote. The freedom to choose the social law appropriate to a national bargaining culture, business environment and legal system — a freedom perfectly compatible with an open EU market — lies in the flexible arrangement which Britain enjoys at present.

THE TWO CLINTONS

The President returns to his days of failure

With his Republican opponents applauding through gritted teeth and a television audience impatiently awaiting a verdict in the O.J. Simpson case, Bill Clinton delivered the first State of the Union address of his second term. The President spoke for a full hour, offering six main sections and at least 36 separate sub-clauses. Although not quite as lengthy as his 80-minute effort in 1995, it still tested the patience of the nation.

Republicans will not be alone in finding aspects of the early and unsuccessful Clinton tenure in the text he outlined. Then, as now, the President appeared to back so many diverse initiatives that it was hard to discern what, if anything, were his true priorities. Even in the area of education, which received the greatest share of Mr Clinton's attention, his ten-point plan covered swathes of different and often disconnected territory.

Rhetorical confusion will not, however, be the factor that most frustrates the Republican Speaker, Newt Gingrich, and the Senate Majority leader, Trent Lott. Their chief concern will be the relatively low profile Mr Clinton ascribed to a balanced budget. Congressional leaders hoped that the President would take this opportunity to lay out, in some detail, what cuts in the welfare state he would accept to attain fiscal balance. Details they got by the dozen — but not on their preferred subject.

The President did pledge his support for balancing the budget, but with his familiar caveat that popular programmes such as education, Medicare and environment-spending must be preserved. That is rather like promising to abandon alcohol apart from

beer, wine and spirits. Having made soothing noises as to principle and avoided the practical, he moved swiftly on to the evidently more exciting area of the Internet.

More disturbingly still, the President, who on the same occasion 12 months ago pronounced the "era of big government" to be over, seemed inclined to embrace its resurrection. Among his new proposals were tax credits for college tuition, additional Medicare services and a new emphasis on the arts. All require greater government expenditure and added power for Washington over public life. Here again it appears that the failed President of 1993, banished during the quest for re-election, has returned.

Mr Clinton's version of the US budget will be unveiled today. Possibly, his expansive State of the Union address was intended to offset what will be a dry and disciplined document. The moves that might permit all sides to reach an economic accord will, perhaps, be buried in the hundreds of pages that he publishes. If so, Mr Clinton, Mr Gingrich, and Mr Lott should be capable of seeking compromise in a more constructive fashion than that which shaped their last, disastrous, attempt. Co-operation on many other elements of domestic and foreign affairs would then be much enhanced.

The less appealing possibility is that the President could choose to evade hard choices and rely on implausibly optimistic economic forecasts instead. In that case, Republicans would be rightly furious. They would see no point in bartering with the White House. Little of long-term value would be achieved in this term. If for the President to decide,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hurd replies on Serbian contacts

From Mr Douglas Hurd, MP for Witney (Conservative)

Sir, I agree with your leading article of February 4, which carries the subtitle, "The world must speak to Belgrade with one voice". You refer specifically to my own attitude. I have made it clear in public and private that I wholly support the line taken by Malcolm Rifkind, namely that Mr Milosevic should recognise fully the results of the Serbian municipal elections.

Last year, after signature of the Dayton Agreement and the lifting of sanctions, it seemed possible that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had decided to move towards economic and political liberalisation. It is very much in the interests of the West that they should do so. In those circumstances it was legitimate for an International Western bank to offer to help in carrying through this programme.

In recent weeks, Mr Milosevic moved consistently in the opposite direction, with lamentable results for his people. It is no sooner to be sure from yesterday's announcement how far that movement has been reversed.

In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia economic and political reform must go hand in hand. For example, privatisation of telecommunications has to take place within a framework approved democratically by parliament. More widely the FRY cannot begin to prosper economically or cope with its sovereign debts without a transformation of the political climate.

Only after such a transformation can outsiders give effective help. As was widely reported in the press over the weekend, NatWest Markets has made this view clear to the FRY ministers.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HURD
(Deputy Chairman,
NatWest Markets,
12 Redan Street, W1.
February 5.

Service pensions

From Major-General P. R. F. Bonnet, General Secretary of the Officers' Pensions Society

Sir, The Shadow Chancellor's announcement (report, February 5) of his intention to freeze the salaries of senior ranks of the Services for one year takes no account of the fact that such a step would affect not only their pay but also their pensions.

Unlike Cabinet ministers and MPs who determine such matters, and others in the public service, Service pensions are based on salaries in force on the day of retirement. Servicemen who retire during the freeze would thus be penalised, not just for the one year of the freeze but for the remainder of their lives. Their widows will be similarly penalised.

These severe and unintended long-term consequences of the Shadow Chancellor's proposal can be resolved by deeming that, for pension purposes, the increased salaries had been awarded — a measure which has been allowed in the past in the interests of fairness.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. F. BONNET,
General Secretary,
Officers' Pensions Society,
68 South Lambeth Road,
Vauxhall, SW8.
February 5.

Net Book Agreement

From Lady Elizabeth Longman

Sir, I was heartened to read your report (January 29) that Auberon Waugh and Tom Stoppard were protesting in the Restrictive Practices Court against a move by the Director-General of Fair Trading to scrap the Net Book Agreement.

As President of the Publishers Association in the Sixties, my late husband, Mark Longman, fought and helped win, on behalf of most serious publishers, the battle to retain this important ruling. It is sad to read that the Publishers Association has withdrawn from the action and that it is left to a few literary stalwarts to try and convince the court that surely it is in the public interest to retain the agreement for the very good reasons so emphatically expressed by those mentioned in your report. May others join them.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH LONGMAN,
The Old Rectory, Todmorden,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.
February 2.

Golden the light

From Mr L. J. Rose

Sir, There can be few who have been immortalised by a future Poet Laureate, as was Myfanwy Evans, later Piper (obituary, January 24). I was surprised, therefore, to see no mention of John Betjeman's eloquent tributes to her as a young Oxford contemporary ("Golden the light on the locks of Myfanwy") in two love poems. Myfanwy and Myfanwy at Oxford, published in *Old Lights for New Chancels* (John Murray, 1940).

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE ROWE,
Scarabaeus House, Thurso, Caithness.
January 25.

Changing terms of Burrell's bequest

From the Director of Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("Burrell's will should still be done", January 30) appears to believe that the terms of his bequest should never be changed. If so, he is wrong.

We believe we are doing what Sir William Burrell would have wished in changing circumstances. He originally willed that his collection should be housed 16 miles from the city because it was so polluted. He could not have predicted the effects of the Clean Air Act which in fact allowed the Burrell Gallery to be built in Glasgow itself.

Sir William certainly wanted his collection to be lent but only in Britain, because as a ship owner, he did not trust ships. He could not have predicted the safety of air travel which now enables all the great museums of the world to lend freely to each other.

We are sure he would want his collection to join them. How could he have resisted a request to have items from his collection exhibited, for example, in the Louvre?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN SPALDING, Director,
Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries,
Kelvingrove, Glasgow.
February 4.

From Mr D. Maxwell Macdonald

Sir, The Burrell Collection is housed in its own building in Pollok Park, not in Pollok House as stated in Magnus Linklater's excellent article. Both house and park were given to the City of Glasgow by my mother in 1969 and the provision of a site for the Burrell building was an integral part of that gift.

My mother's expressed wish was that the house should be maintained for the enjoyment of the public and as the home for her family's collection of Spanish and other paintings, to be known as "The Sirling Maxwell Collection" in memory of her father.

Until recently the City of Glasgow has kept Pollok House open to the public; but last year it was decided to close it for the winter for economy reasons (after eight months of refurbishment). I have now heard that its planned Easter reopening has been deferred until late June at the earliest. One has to wonder whether it will open at all.

This is clearly another case of Glasgow seeking to ride roughshod over the wishes of a benefactor. I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Linklater's exhortation to the members of the par-

liamentary commission to bear in mind the far-reaching reverberations of a decision to alter the terms of Sir William Burrell's will.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD MAXWELL
MACDONALD,
55 Park Walk, SW10.
January 30.

From Dr Norman H. Tennent

Sir, William Burrell was not only a great art collector but also a wise one. He correctly identified the threat of pollution to museum collections and insisted that his collection be located so as to protect it from Glasgow's industrially-generated pollution (now largely replaced by the hazards of pollution from motor vehicles).

In stipulating that his collection should not travel abroad, he also astutely anticipated the dangers posed to art collections in transit. He would not doubt have been gratified that preventive conservation is now at the heart of the care of museum collections and that many specialists are researching ways to minimise the damage which collections may suffer as the result of air transport.

It is all the more sad, therefore, that Mr Spalding is seeking not only to change the terms of Sir William's bequest in order to allow loans abroad, but that he is also proposing unjustifiably drastic cuts to his well-respected team of 14 fully qualified conservators. These cuts, if enacted, would leave but three professional conservators and no experts in preventive conservation.

It seems that Sir William anticipated only some of the hazards of museum collections.

Yours sincerely,
N. H. TENNENT
(Chief Conservation Scientist,
Glasgow Museums, 1975-87).
The Netherlands Institute for
Cultural Heritage,
Gabriel Metsustraat 8,
1071EA Amsterdam.
January 30.

From Mr Henry Hely-Hutchinson

Sir, Perhaps Members of Parliament might consider whether some time limitation should be placed on the wishes of all benefactors. Where there are strings, there is no gift.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY HELY-HUTCHINSON,
22 Kylestone House,
Cundy Street, SW1.
February 2.

In 1994 Lord Rippon chaired an informal group which made a number of recommendations for the better management of the work of the House: more Friday sittings, an informal 10pm cut-off for controversial business, new time limits for certain debates and, most significantly, an increase in the consideration of Bills in committees off the floor of the House.

These have all proved useful mechanisms to assist what is still an amateur and unpaid House more effectively to scrutinise the legislation put before it.

Lord Rippon had great experience and technical knowledge of the legislative process. He also managed to combine tact with authority. It was an irresistible combination.

Yours faithfully,
ANN SAUNDERS (Hon Editor),
London Topographical Society,
3 Meadow Gate, NW1.
February 3.

Pews and popcorn

From Mr Russell Doust

Sir, Mr John Lee's proposal (letter, February 5) that churches might charge for admission to colour-coded pews, with the red ones nearest the altar being the dearest, deserves the support of vicars and especially church treasurers.

However, he is mistaken in thinking that the front pews are the most favoured and therefore should be the most expensive. It is clear from my observations, carried out over many years in many churches, that it is the seats at the back which fill up first and which surely should cost more. It is usually latecomers who have to sit under the eye of the vicar in the less popular front pews.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL DOUST,
The Vineries, Howe Street,
Nr Great Waltham, Essex.
February 3.

Hume (report and picture, December 9, 1996); scholarships and bursaries for the school; but most of the money will help Frances Lawrence and her children, who are surely the greatest memorial to Philip Lawrence, his bravery and his ideals.

We are closing the fund today and on behalf of Frances Lawrence and ourselves we should like to thank everyone who so generously contributed. The beneficial effects of their generosity will continue.

Yours etc.
HARRY GREENWAY,
House of Commons,
LAURENCE SOOPER, OSB,
Ealing Abbey, W5 2DY.
February 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Support plea for organic farming

From Sir Julian Rose

Sir, Far from restoring public confidence in the wake of the BSE crisis, the creation of a "food safety chief" (report, January 30; letters, January 31) seems to me to be destined to become just another sorry example of political posturing. It will do nothing to revive faith in UK food production and is more likely to provoke a further rash of public cynicism.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
February 5: The Queen this afternoon visited the MIND Centre, Hemsby, Norfolk, and was received by the Chairman (Mr Philip Cousins).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 5: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended the Magnificent 7 Dinner at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel, Cadogan Place, London SW1.

FRUITLAND - The Princess Royal, President, British Clothing and Clothing Export Council, this afternoon visited Just Jamie Group, York Way, King's Cross, London N1.

Her Royal Highness, Honorary Fellow, later opened a new extension of the Royal College of Physicians, St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 5: The Prince of Wales, President, this morning attended the launch of the British Society Jubilee Year at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend the Carers in Employment seminar on Good Practice at the Business and Innovation Centre, Sunderland Enterprise Park, Wearfield, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, at 10.45am and will attend the Newcastle Fun-raising luncheon (Merz & Merz), Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne at 12.45. Later, as Patron of the Basic Skills Trust, she will visit South TyneSide College, St George's Avenue, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, at 2.20.

Leonard Cheshire Foundation

The Prince of Wales has agreed to become Patron of the disability charity The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, for its Golden Jubilee in 1998. The Prince's support was announced by the charity's Chairman, Sir David Goddall, GCMG, at a meeting of the trustees at Leonard Cheshire House, London SW1, on Wednesday, February 5.

Horners' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Horners' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Charles K. Howe, Upper Warden, Mr Jeremy J. Cartwright; Renter Warden, Dr Leonard P. Smith.

Today's birthdays

Today is the 45th anniversary of the accession of The Queen.

Rabbi Lionel Blue, author and broadcaster, 67; Mr Nicholas Brett, publishing director, *Radio Times*, 47; Sir Denis Buckley, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 91; Mr Peter Cadbury, company chairman, 79; Mr Tim Ewart, broadcaster, 48; Mr John Flemming, FBA, Warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 86; Professor Roger Greenhalgh, vascular surgeon, 56; Professor J.E.C. Kevin Whately, actor, 46.

Memorial service

Mr John Mackinnon
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr John Duncan Mackinnon, a former Director of St Paul's, St Aubyn, was held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Rev Christopher Courtauld officiated.

Mr Carel Mosselmans and Mr Binyav Mavrolios read the lessons and Mr Alastair Wallace gave a reading.

Mr Robin Stannom-Darling gave an address. Members of the former Villages Forum and English Partnerships, at the German Gymnasium, Pancras Road, Kings Cross, London NW1.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited the Crown Estate offices, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 5: The Duke of Gloucester, President, the Britain-Nepal Society, this evening attended the Society's Annual Supper at St Columba's Church Hall, Port Street, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
February 5: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Army Winter Sports Association, this evening attended an Olympic reception at the Stefani Hotel, St Moritz, Switzerland.

Supper

The Britain-Nepal Society

The Duke of Gloucester, President of the Britain-Nepal Society, was welcomed by Sir Neil Thorne, chairman, at the annual supper held last night at St Columba's Church Hall, Port Street. The Nepalese Ambassador and Mrs Shrestha, Major-General J.A.R. Robertson, Lieutenant-Colonel H.C.S. Gregory, Colonel J.M. Evans, Lieutenant-Colonel C.G. Wyke, Brigadier A.B. Taggar and Mrs Celia Brown, vice-presidents, Mr Roger Potter, vice-chairman, and Mrs Pat Mellor, honorary secretary, were also present.

Sherborne School for Girls

Geoffrey Harding Memorial Lecture

The Right Rev David Jenkins, former Bishop of Durham, will deliver the Geoffrey Harding Memorial Lecture on "Unfinished Business - The Pursuit of Health, the Practice of Healing and the Pilgrimage of Pain", at St Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street, EC3, on Saturday, February 8, at 2pm. Entrance free.

Lecture

Arbitrators' Company
Mr V.V. Veeder, QC, delivered the annual lecture of the Arbitrators' Company held yesterday at Gray's Inn. Mr Douglas Smith, Master, presided and presented prizes for success in commercial arbitrations to Mr Andrew O'Connor and Mr Andrew Morgan of the Inns of Court School of Law and to Mr Julian Kenny and Mr Sean O'Sullivan of the City University.

Lord Donaldson of Lynington, Sir Michael Kerr and Justices of the Official Referee's Court were among the guests.

Legal appointments

Mr Justice Tuckey to be the Judge in Charge of the Commercial List from October 1, 1997, to September 30, 1998, in succession to Mr Justice Colman.

Mr Justice Toulson to be a Presiding Judge of the Western Circuit from October 1, 1997, to December 31, 2001, in succession to Mr Justice Tuckey.

Mr Christopher Ian McGonigal to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the North Eastern Circuit. The Lord Chancellor intends to designate him as a Circuit Mercantile Judge. He is the first solicitor to be appointed a Circuit Mercantile Judge.

Two new Mercantile Court Lists are to operate in the North East from April, headed by Mr McGonigal.

The appointment of Mrs Rosemary Melling as Chief Inspector, Magistrates' Courts Service Inspectorate, is to be extended.

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OBITUARIES

Pamela Harriman, US Ambassador to France since 1993, died yesterday in Paris after a stroke aged 76. She was born on March 20, 1920.

The former daughter-in-law of Sir Winston Churchill, Pamela Harriman was one of the great courtesans of her age. Those who saw her simply as some sort of reincarnation of Madame de Pompadour ignored the very real talent for organisation and flair for money-raising that she put at the service of the Democratic Party — and particularly of Bill Clinton — during the days of the Reagan and Bush Administrations.

She was one of the moving spirits behind the centrist Democratic Leadership Council — most of the fundraising functions of which were held at her grand house in Georgetown — and her reward for all the support she had given to the new President came when he nominated her to the Paris Embassy in 1993. She served there with *flair* and *distinction*, more than making up in style what she may have lacked in detailed diplomatic knowledge.

There was, however, a darker side even to the latter part of Pamela Harriman's life. She became conspicuously rich in her own right only after the death in 1986 of her third husband Averell Harriman, the former Ambassador to Moscow and Governor of New York. He left her the guardian of his fortune, though with some trust provisions for his grandchildren deriving from his first marriage. She was soon engaged in an angry dispute with their lawyers and trustees over the apparent draining away of very substantial assets. She eventually launched an action against her own lawyer, the classic Washington insider Clark Clifford, whom she dismissed, and claimed to have reached an undisclosed out-of-court settlement with her husband's two daughters and their descendants.

This well-publicised episode cast a cloud over her tenure of the Paris Embassy, at one stage even threatening to force her resignation. She was not in any event expected to remain in Paris throughout President Clinton's second term, having a year ago in an interview with *The Washington Post* intimated that she was tired of living in the public eye and was ready to go home to Washington.

Pamela Beryl Digby, as she was before her first marriage to Randolph Churchill at the age of 19 in 1939, was the eldest daughter of the 11th Baron Digby. Brought up at Minterne Magna, a great house in Dorset she had the typical upbringing of a society girl of her era. Not much attention was paid to her education — though, slightly unusually for the

period, she did go away to a boarding school in Norfolk — and most of the family's efforts were bent to organising her coming-out.

Her debutante season was not, however, strikingly successful. Described by one of John F. Kennedy's sisters as "a fat, stupid little butterfly", she landed no husband and allowed herself to be compromised by two notorious liaisons with the young Earl of Warwick and Philip Dunn, the heir to the Canadian steel magnate and friend of Lord Beaverbrook, Sir James Dunn. When, after the 1938 season, the family moved back from Carlos Place, Mayfair, to the country, there was no serious suitor in view.

All that changed in September 1939 when, while working as a French translator at the Foreign Office (she had been to a finishing school in Paris), she met through a flatmate the already distinctly louche son of the then First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill. She was later to claim that he had "swept her off her feet" — and certainly they were married within three weeks (even more helpfully a son, Winston, followed within a year, providing her with her lasting passport to the Churchill family).

The marriage itself, though, soon founded — thanks more to Randolph's reckless gambling than to anything else — and the young wife and mother was soon under the protection of Lord Beaverbrook to whom she had appealed for help with her husband's debts. It was through Beaverbrook — who had taken her over to Chequers where Winston Churchill, now Prime Minister, spent the weekends (when he was not at Ditchley) — that she first met the man who had just come over to Britain as President Roosevelt's special lend-lease envoy.

W. Averell Harriman was then nearly 50, quite old enough to be Pamela's father. There seems, however, to have been an instant mutual attraction and in a matter of weeks the young English red-head and the experienced American tycoon and statesman were sleeping together. The connivance of Winston and Clementine Churchill in the face of this arrangement — which clearly possessed political advantages in terms of the Anglo-American Alliance — effectively put paid to whatever slight chance there was of salvaging the marriage to Randolph. (He and Pamela were divorced in 1946.)

But there could, at least at that stage, be no question of marriage to Harriman. Already on to his second wife — his first marriage, from which there were two daughters, had ended in divorce in 1929 — he nurtured political (even presidential) ambitions, and a wedding to an English divorcee would not have helped those. By the time Harriman was posted to Moscow



as US Ambassador in 1943, the relationship had already cooled somewhat (not least because of an ultimatum issued by Harriman's second wife Marie, who had learnt about the affair even in New York).

For Pamela it was time to go on to pastures new: she held the ideal post for purposes now: helping to run what was known as the Churchill Club in Ashburnham House (the elegant 17th-century building belonging to the then evacuated Westminster School) in Little Dean's Yard, SW1. Designed as a refuge for cultivated English-speaking servicemen of all ranks, the club offered her a marvellous entrée to the more select elements of Anglo-American society. She took full advantage of it, embarking on sexual relationships with the former New

York socialite (and later Ambassador to London), Jack Hay Whitney; an American Air Force General, Frederick L. Anderson; William Paley, the president of CBS; Sir Charles (later Lord) Portal, the head of the RAF's Bomber Command; and, above all, Ed Murrow, the London correspondent of CBS News.

In this galore Murrow was very much the odd man out. He was neither rich nor, in the conventional sense, illustrious or distinguished. But there seems little doubt that at this stage of her colourful and variegated career, he was the man whom Pamela wished to marry. There was, however, a snag — he was married and his wife had just produced a baby son. In the end, the tie of fatherhood proved too much for Murrow, and though

she pursued him to New York, Pamela had finally in the spring of 1946 to face the fact that their affair was over.

The next few years were probably her bleakest. With her only real asset the Churchill surname — and encumbered with a sometimes neglected son of five — she seemed to be facing an unpromising future. Lord Beaverbrook, who had always been a faithful friend, initially took pity on her by offering her a job on the Londoner's Diary of the *Evening Standard*. But journalism did not prove to be her métier and it was only the glamorous dates with which she was rewarded that enabled her to embark on the second phase of her life as an appendage of European café society.

Her first conquest was Prince Aly Khan, whom she met while covering the ball he annually gave at Longchamp. That year, 1947, his horse Avenger had won at 33-1 and he was in stupendous ebullient mood when he met the shining advertisement for English sex appeal and asked her to dance. The inevitable followed — though this time, in contrast to the painful and protracted love affair with Murrow, she seems to have been under no illusion that it was any more than a fling.

That was not, however, true of her much longer association with Gianni Agnelli, whom she first encountered on the terrace of Aly Khan's house in the South of France. The heir to the Fiat fortune, he was at that stage unmarried, but it was probably always unrealistic for her to hope that he would contemplate matrimony with someone who was neither a cradle Catholic nor Italian and who had been divorced as well (though by 1953 she had succeeded, after converting to Catholicism, in getting her marriage to Randolph annulled in Rome). But that was her last throw of the dice to capture Agnelli; it did not work. That autumn Agnelli married an Italian aristocrat, whom he had made pregnant, and Pamela was forced to come to terms with the tough lesson that the past four years of her life had been wasted.

Moving back to Paris she found consolation under the protection of Eli Rothschild of the French Rothschild banking family and proprietor of the famous Château Lafite vineyard. This time her sole aspiration can only have been to be accepted as a *maîtresse en titre* — he was already married and there was anyway none of the excitement that had attended her life with Agnelli. But their relationship lasted six years and again it was not Pamela who ended it.

But in doing so, Eli Rothschild probably did her a good turn. By 1958 she had spent a decade in France and it was time to move on. She did so by returning

to New York, where she had once hoped to live with Ed Murrow. It proved to be a fortunate choice. Invited to the theatre by her old flame, Bill Paley, she took along as her escort a man she had never met before (but whose wife she knew), the theatrical agent and Broadway producer of musical shows such as *South Pacific* and *Call Me Madam*, Leland Hayward. That same night — as they reported laughing to their host (they had left the theatre at the interval) — they were in bed together. Two years later, Hayward having in the meantime divorced his wife, they were married.

The marriage, which lasted for 11 years before Hayward's death in 1971, was a happy one — married only, in an ominous foretaste of things to come with the Harriman family, by an acrimonious dispute with her second husband's children over his property.

Six months after she had been widowed Pamela married the man with whom she had conducted her wartime affair 30 years earlier. Averell Harriman's second wife, Marie Whitney Harriman, had died the year before, so their meeting again — originally at Katharine Graham's home in Washington — could have been regarded as providential. Harriman was, by the time of their marriage in September 1971, nearly 80 and much troubled by deafness. Nevertheless, he himself was to say at his 90th birthday party in 1981: "The happiest years of my life have been with Pam."

He died five years later in 1986, leaving a \$30 million trust fund to be distributed in 25 years' time among his grandchildren, \$4,000 each to his daughters and virtually everything else, including his property, pictures and a fortune of at least \$6 million, to his wife. No member of Harriman's family felt disposed to challenge the will but things took an uglier legal turn when it was suggested that she had mismanaged and squandered the assets forming the trust fund due to his grandchildren. This dispute was apparently settled last year, though not without Pamela Harriman having to sell some celebrated Impressionist paintings and being forced to agree to pursue her own former business and legal advisers jointly with the original plaintiffs to the action.

She found consolation in the professional impression she created throughout the nearly four years which she spent representing the United States in France. Rather touchingly, the entire bravura display had been made possible only by her decision to take out American citizenship as a wedding present to her third (and easily wealthiest) husband.

She is survived by her only child, Winston Churchill, the Conservative MP for Davyhulme.

RONALD FOWLER

Ronald Fowler, CBE, economic statistician, died on January 5 aged 86. He was born on April 21, 1910.

RONALD FOWLER will be remembered as the statistician who established the Retail Prices Index and the Family Expenditure Survey. From 1914 until 1947, changes in retail prices had been measured by the Cost of Living Index. This was the only official measure of inflation and consequently had a great impact on wage negotiations. However, it was constructed

by measuring changes in the cost of buying a fixed "basket of goods" which was based on a survey of the budgets of working-class households made in 1904. This gave high weights to items such as candles, and by 1947 it was hopelessly out of date.

A new *Interim Index* of Retail Prices started in 1947 but this was still based on pre-1939 patterns of expenditure. Under Fowler's direction, and following recommendations by the RPI Advisory Committee, a succession of improvements was made. The first postwar survey of household

expenditure was held in 1953 in order to obtain weights for a new Index of Retail Prices which started in 1956.

A permanent survey, the Family Expenditure Survey, was started in 1957 to collect the expenditure data continuously. Finally, in 1962, the present "chained" system was introduced, under which the weights of the RPI are updated every year.

Ronald Frederick Fowler was educated at Bancroft's School, the London School of Economics and at the Universities of Lille and Brussels before becoming lecturer in

commerce at LSE. He published *The Depreciation of Capital in 1954*.

With the outbreak of the Second World War he became one of the founder members of the Central Statistical Office, which was set up by Winston Churchill to serve the War Cabinet. It was during his time at the CSO that Fowler was influential in developing a system of employment statistics based on counts of national insurance records.

In 1950 he was appointed Director of Statistics at the Ministry of Labour, where he was responsible for the entire range of labour statistics, covering employment and unemployment, wage rates and earnings, industrial disputes and retail prices. These were all topics of great political interest.

Fowler was Director of Statistics at the Ministry of Labour from 1950 to 1968. He introduced the monthly index of average earnings and conducted other surveys of earnings, salaries and labour costs.

He was then Director of Statistical Research at the Department of Employment until he retired in 1972. During this period he published further papers on the duration of unemployment and the construction of index numbers. He was a consultant to Statistics Canada and to the Prices Commission.

A quiet, self-effacing man, Fowler had unexpected interests. In his leisure, he taught himself Latin so that he could read the classical texts in the original. He was appointed CBE in 1950.

In 1957 he married Brenda Smith. She survives him.

IAN THRELFALL

Ian Threlfall, QC, died on January 6 aged 76. He was born on January 14, 1920.

CLASSICAL scholar, historian, archaeologist and lawyer, Ian Threlfall could have followed any of these disciplines with distinction. But he chose the Bar, developing a formidable reputation as a QC in the area now generally called "competition law".

Competition law involves the application of legal and economic principles to the determination of the public interest in matters of monopoly and anti-competitive conduct. Industry's need for advocates with the intellect to understand commercial and economic issues, as well as strictly legal matters, created a new market in which Threlfall grasped the opportunities. He led a remarkably successful group of barristers' chambers in Gray's Inn — now known as Monckton Chambers, at 4 Raymond Buildings.

When Threlfall started practice, the Second World War was barely over. By the time he retired, the area in which he practised had changed beyond recognition. He was at the beginning of the old "cartel" or trade association cases that were considered by the Restrictive Practices Court in the later 1950s. He went on to lead in cases under the Resale Prices Act of 1964 and in references to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the Fair Trading Act 1973. What had started as an interesting if specialised subject for lawyers and economists had grown, in part as a result of Britain's entry into

the EEC in 1973, into a major area of law and policy affecting the relations between the State and the corporation.

Richard Ian Threlfall was born in Edgbaston and educated in his father's footsteps, going up to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, in 1938 to read law. But he was already seriously interested in archaeology, too, and had helped to excavate a medieval settlement at Bere in Devon.

Threlfall's academic career was interrupted in 1940 when he enlisted in the Army. He served with the Indian Armoured Corps (Probyn's Horse), was twice mentioned in despatches, had a substantive rank as captain, and was promoted to lieutenant-colonel by the end of the war. He took part in one of the most decisive battles of that war, at Imphal, and was on the staff of Field Marshal Slim. But he was always reticent about his war record, never boasting of the courage which he had shown.

In 1946 he returned to Cambridge to complete his law degree. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1947, and joined the chambers of Brian McKenna, QC, (later Mr Justice McKenna) in 1948. He took silk in 1965 and was made a Master of the Bench of Lincoln's Inn in 1973.

He married in 1948 Annette Matthey, whose family had long been associated with the Goldsmiths' Company. Threlfall dedicated himself to the affairs of this livery company for more than 30 years. He became Prime Warden, 1978-79, but his main work, from 1974 to 1991, was as chairman of the company's assay office committee, the work of which is essential to the retention of the highest standards of quality and their description.

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In 1946 he returned to Cambridge, having studied assiduously with the East Surrey Health Authority, tended the splendid garden of his Limfield house and nurtured his growing family of grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Annette and by two sons and three daughters. Another son predeceased him in a car accident.

ON THIS DAY

February 6, 1945

In the early weeks of 1945 signs were apparent everywhere that the Second World War was entering its final phase.

now issued in a firm allied mastery of the air. Working in constant association with the guns of Anti-Aircraft Command, they helped to protect London and other great cities in the grim second winter of the war, they made a swift new deployment against the "Baedeker Raids", and another when "up-and-run" raiding was directed against the south coast; they took the offensive at the invasion of Europe and were on guard over the beaches on D Day; and more lately still they brought down 278 flying bombs. Besides all this, they had their tasks in the landings at Dieppe, Sicily, Salerno and Corsica; and for three years provided a mobile canopy over merchant ships traversing the Channel. Civilians

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Bargains of the week — from cost-price trips to Turkey to discounts for the over-60s at Spanish paradores

FLIGHTS

TRAVELMOOD has a rock-bottom £159 return fare to New York, flying Continental before February 28. The agency also has a £248 deal flying Northwest to Los Angeles before mid-March. Details: 0171-288 0280.

■ FLIGHTS to Mexico City before March 10 cost £281 return with American Airlines, departing from London, Birmingham or Manchester. Details: Trailfinders, 0171-437 5400.

■ BRITISH AIRWAYS has a special £59 fare between Edinburgh and Belfast for passengers attending the five nations' championship game on March 1. Details: 0345 222111.

■ KLM flights to Bali cost £415 return through Trailfinders. Departures from London or any of 20 UK regional airports. Details: 0171-938 3939.

■ GB AIRWAYS has introduced a £165 Supersaver excursion between Gatwick and Tunis. Details: 0345 222111.

■ SWISSAIR flights to the Gulf state of Dubai during February cost £329 return through Air Tickets Direct. Departure from Heathrow, for a minimum one-week stay. Details: 01279 713713.

HOLIDAYS

FREE WEEKEND hotel accommodation is on offer from Going Places with every over-seas holiday booked for this year. Rooms are available in 240 hotels in Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium and The Netherlands, where breakfast and dinner will cost about £25 a person a day. Details from the company's 715 shops.

■ MADEIRA for a fortnight for £379 a person on a Cosmos holiday with bed and breakfast accommodation and a flight from Manchester next Monday is available from Co-op Travelcare. Details: 0161-827 1030.

■ SAVINGS of £64 a person are available on a fortnight's holiday to Orlando with Unijet. Prices, from £399, include flights from Manchester on February 20 and 22, room-only accommodation in the central area and car hire. Details: 0990 336336.

■ SKIING weekends in Flaine, Switzerland, are available from Erna Low from £355 a person with a Swissair flight from London on February 28, three nights' half-board hotel accommodation and car hire. Details: 0171-584 2841.

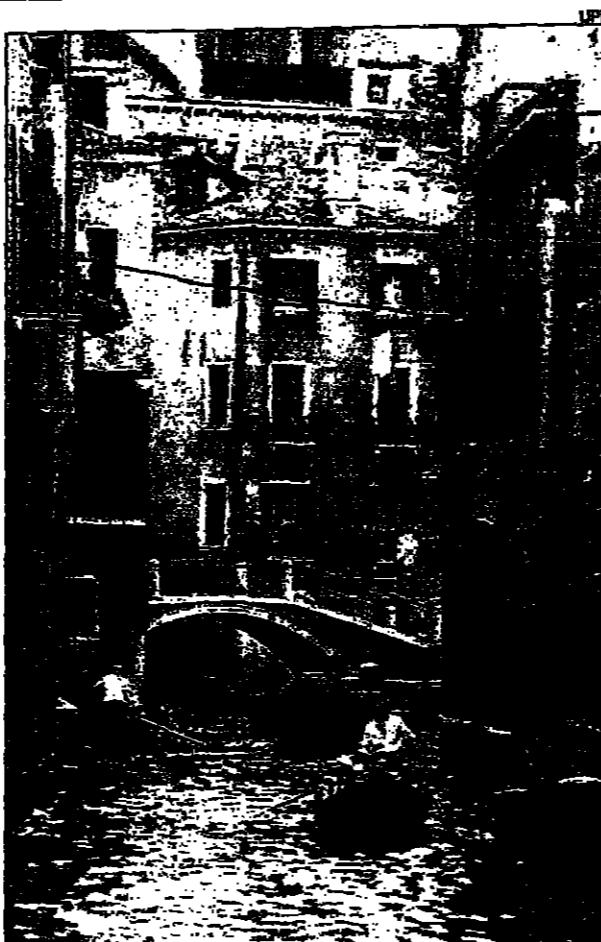
■ NEPAL for a fortnight for £1,200 a person is available from Exodus on a tour that

includes Kathmandu, walking in the Pokhara Valley and visiting Chitwan National Park. The price includes the return flight from London on March 8, accommodation in hotels and lodges and some meals. Details: 0181-675 5550.

■ COSTA CRUISES has cut 30 per cent off the price of its 16-night Easter cruise from Florida on March 30 through the Caribbean and across the Atlantic to Genoa. Prices start at £995 a person, plus £80 port tax, and include a flight from London, meals and a night in a Miami hotel. Details: 0171-324 4000.

■ BARCELONA city breaks with discount passes to a dozen attractions are available from £229 a person from Lakes & Mountains Holidays from April 1 and include two nights' bed and breakfast at a four-star hotel and return flights from Heathrow. Details: 01329 844405.

■ COST-PRICE trips to Turkey are on offer from Tapestry Holidays to mark the introduction of Aymera Hill Hotel near Olu Deniz to its programme. Holidays cost £199 a person for a week's bed and breakfast and £249 for a fortnight with flights from Gatwick on April 27, May 4 and 11. Details: 0181-742 0055.



Italian inspiration: discount passes to museums, concerts and restaurants are included in two-night breaks to Venice with Crystal Italy. Prices start from £339 a person for two nights in bed and breakfast accommodation and include return scheduled flights. Details: 0181-390 5554.

DAY-TRIP prices on Stena Line between Dover and Calais or Newhaven and Dieppe cost £10 for a car and up to five passengers before March 1 (£10 supplements on Saturday). The same price applies until April 15 for a car and two passengers. Details: Eurodrive, on 0181-324 4000.

■ MOTORCYCLE fares for a driver and up to two passengers (including sidecar) start at £39 for a five-day Sea France return and £59 for a standard return between Dover and Calais from £45 for a car and up to five passengers. Details: 0171-328 6021.

■ A TWO-DAY return, valid until March 16, is available on P&O Ferries from Dover to Calais from £45 for a car and up to five passengers. Details: Eurodrive, 0181-324 4000.

■ SHORT BREAKS to Ireland, centred on Cork, start at £122 a person with Swansons Cork Ferries, to include ferry crossing and based on two adults sharing two nights in three-star accommodation with breakfast. Details: 01792 417900.

■ VALENTINE'S Day aboard a Scandinavian Seaway ferry to Holland is on offer from £59 a person from Harwich on February 13. Details: 0990 333111.

TWO NIGHTS for the price of one are on offer from selected Grand Heritage hotels in the UK, including £45 a person for two nights at the Burleigh Court Hotel, an 18th-century manor house in the Cotswolds. Offer valid until March 31 and excludes Valentine's night. Details: 0171-244 6699.

■ OVER-60s get a 35 per cent discount at the Spanish paradores available through Mundu Color Holidays. The offer, on a B&B basis, is available until June. Details: 0171-328 6021.

■ CHAMPAGNE and chocolates are included in the Valentine offer from the Park Concorde Hotel, a discreet townhouse hotel in Chelsea, at £155 a couple. The offer includes Saturday morning breakfast before hitting the shops. Details: 0171-225 7500.

■ A SPORTS activity such as clay-pigeon shooting, riding, or a spa treatment is included in the leisure break price offered by the Gleneagles Hotel in Auchterarder, Perthshire, at £179 a night for two people. Details: 0800 704705.

■ "GREAT Affordables" is the name of a free new weekend-break brochure from Leading Hotels of the World detailing special holidays at

£199 top hotels worldwide. Details: 0800 181123.

■ RELAX in a four-poster bath at the Grade II listed Rowton Castle Hotel in the Shropshire countryside for a two-night Valentine break, including dinner, for £100 a person a night. Reservations through Superbreak Mini-Holidays: 0161-238 5257.

■ A SPECIAL weekend break price of £195 a room a night plus VAT and including breakfast is available from the Halkin Hotel in London's Knightsbridge. Details: 0171-333 1000.

■ A FREE guide to romantic weekend breaks in European cities is available from Inter-Continental Hotels. The "24 Hours in the Heart of the City Guide" offers 12 itineraries. Details: 0800 854068.

■ SHAKESPEARE'S Love Sonnets are among the extras included in the Valentine package at the Springs Hotel near Wallingford, Oxfordshire, close to the Thames. Price: £80 for a double room. Details: 01491 836687.

■ A COMPLIMENTARY guide to the £60 Budget Travel Inns has just been launched. All rooms are priced at £36.50 a night. Details: 01582 414341.

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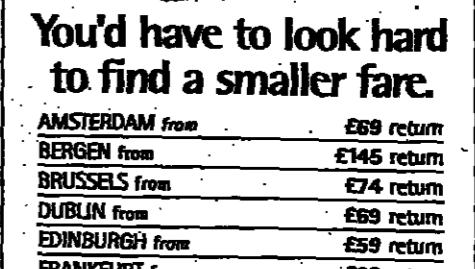
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Shuttle slashes fares to regain lost business

By STEVE KEENAN

LE SHUTTLE turned the screw in the cross-Channel price war yesterday when it sharply undercut its arch-rival P&O Ferries by slashing up to a quarter off the price of last year's Channel Tunnel fares.

The tunnel operator's 1997 summer tariffs show a simplified fare structure and a level of prices it hopes to maintain throughout the year, without resorting to last summer's fierce price war.

It has cut its standard return price to £169, from £268 last year, while fares for the eight peak weekends in the summer drop from £328 last year to £199. These prices cover a car and up to nine passengers.

The shuttle prices compare with P&O's £268 peak rate and £28 for a standard return for a car and three passengers.

Bill Dix, Le Shuttle's managing director, says: "We want

to have prices that are competitive and affordable. And we are hoping not to have to mess around with discounts this summer."

In June last year, Le Shuttle slashed its peak fare from £328 to £129 to spark a price war among the four ferry rivals operating out of Dover. The average return ferry fare was close to £100 during last summer.

Le Shuttle also announced yesterday that it is matching P&O's offer of any 1997 return fare for £99 when it is booked and paid for by February 28. Stena has a £98 fare, with a £70 fare available from Sea France and HoverSpeed (Folkestone-Boulogne).

Now the market is waiting to see what prices Stena, the third-largest operator on the short-seas route, will tempt passengers with when it produces its summer schedule

shortly. While the ferries benefited in November and December from the fire damage to the tunnel, Le Shuttle claims that confidence in its services has now recovered enough to take a 38 per cent share of the joint Dover/Folkestone-Calais market.

Last October, before the fire, it held a 50 per cent share.

But with the proposed merger of P&O and Stena expected to be approved by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on March 6, a price war this summer appears unlikely.

The joint ferry operation will cut excess capacity, the main reason for last summer's price cuts.

Mr Dix says the market is

expected to see a further increase in 1997, dampening the possibilities of a price war.

Last year the number of cars

passing through Dover or the tunnel increased by 25 per cent to 2.5 million return journeys.

Of that figure, around 1.6 million were British cars, with half on day trips or short breaks. Fifteen per cent were business travellers and 35 per cent were taking long-stay holidays.

The average number of

passengers per car was 2.5.

"The increase in 1997 could be more than 15 per cent," said Mr Dix.

"With the strong pound we are seeing tour operators booking heavily — but the big growth is in day trips and short breaks."

There are a tremendous number of people in the South East who have not yet been through the tunnel."



Le Shuttle hopes that 1997 will be just like the old days

Hotels use VAT loophole to hide price increases

By DAVID CHURCHILL

hotels' interest". She says the practice came to light while her agency was carrying out its regular monitoring of hotel rates for its corporate clients.

She claims that Forte's four-star Cavendish Hotel in central London, which quotes £140 plus VAT for a single room, and Sarova's Washington hotel in Mayfair, which charges £160 plus VAT a night.

Most five-star hotels in London have quoted prices excluding VAT for some time, arguing that it is helpful for overseas and business guests who can claim the VAT back. But it is believed that this is the first time that four-star hotels have adopted the policy.

Hotel industry sources also suggest that Forte may also institute a similar policy for its three-star Posthouse chain, which is purely in the

although the company strongly denied this yesterday. But Ms Batten says that "the three and four-star hotel chains planning such a move are predominantly dependent on domestic visitors and many British travellers may face unpleasant surprises when they get their room bills this year".

Quoting prices excluding VAT is lawful in certain circumstances because of exemptions made for VAT-registered guests under the 1987 Consumer Protection Act and the hotel industry code of practice adopted the following year.

However, the law remains confusing in its application and the DTI wrote on Monday to the industry's trade body, the British Hospitality Association, asking for suggestions as to how the law concerning hotels could be amended.

Britain aims to be No 1 destination

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITAIN is bidding to become the world's number one holiday destination, attracting millions more tourists who will fuel an economic and employment boom.

But in a document aimed at finding ways of turning the policy into reality, published yesterday, there is no mention of any limit to the growth in the number of foreign tourists and little mention of how the ever-rising number of visitors is to be managed.

After unveiling the report, Success Through Partnership,

produced by the Government and the tourist industry, the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, said: "We want to make Britain the number one destination, not just for domestic tourism but for Europeans and the rest of the world. We want to extend the season and develop areas away from places such as London, Oxford and Bradford. And there is no limit in sight to the increase in visitors we can accommodate."

Britain earns more than £37 billion a year from tourism and its total economic impact is estimated to be more than twice that. It accounts for over 7 per cent of employment.

But the document acknowledges that not everyone is happy about the continued growth in tourists in London and at popular attractions throughout Britain.

"The presence of tourists is sometimes resented," admits the report. "The full economic

and social importance of tourism is still not recognised in some quarters."

Equally, foreign visitors often have negative images of Britain. "Some potential visitors see us as old-fashioned and gloomy, with bad weather and bad food. People who have never visited Britain may be deterred by misleading and outdated perceptions," the report says. London is often criticised as having a "variable quality product, environmental clutter and traffic congestion," the report says.

many years ago that the rapid movement of fuel within a pipe or a pump could lead to the build-up of potentially dangerous static and ordered all British airports to use an additive — known as SDA — when refuelling to eliminate the danger.

Most other countries immediately followed the CAA's lead. But Russia, China and the United States refused, arguing that their fuel was pumped at a slower speed and there was therefore less risk.

Officially, the FAA has yet

to decide whether to accept the NTSB's recommendations. But airlines are already convinced that new regulations are inevitable.

Any new moves to improve safety would implicitly mean that mechanical failure was now the accepted cause of the disaster, throwing open the doors to legal actions by relatives with potential damages of more than £5 billion. Most of the insurance for such damages is held with Lloyd's in London.

But the CAA recognised

it is the last item that will cause particular annoyance in much of the rest of the world and will inevitably lead to accusations that had the US followed the advice of Britain's Civil Aviation Authority the accident would not have happened in the first place.

The FAA was at first convinced that the explosion on the Boeing 747, in which 230 passengers and crew died, had been caused by a bomb.

Officials from the National Transportation Safety Board

had been called in to respond.

But the CAA recognised



Bear facts: a Discovery Initiatives project in British Columbia aims to protect brown bears from the dangers of logging



A monthly column from the security and detection agency

LOW RISK

For the second year in a row, police in Costa Rica have been assigned to patrol beaches in "Operation Safe Summer". Over recent months, farmers, seamen, public servants and professional people have all launched strikes and street protests in Greece. If the austerity measures caused by the country's drive to meet EU economic requirements continue, general strike action is predicted, particularly in Athens.

MODERATE RISK

Economic meltdown in Bulgaria finally brought demonstrators on to the streets of Sofia in January. As the embattled Socialist Government has rejected early elections, more protests are certain. The increasing wave of Volkswagen "Bug" taxi passenger assaults and robberies have forced the police in Mexico City to intensify operations in tourist zones, hotels, restaurants and the airport. At least three well-armed insurgents are active in Uganda. Insurgent activity occurs in the area of Murchison Falls National Park, north of the Nile. Travel is also risky in the southwestern corner of Uganda near the Zaire and Rwanda borders.

HIGH RISK

Most international aid agencies have abandoned eastern Zaire after government forces, backed by European mercenaries, launched a counteroffensive against Tutsi rebels.

EXTREME RISK

More than 200 people have been killed in a campaign by Islamic extremists in Algeria which has included car bombs in crowded metropolitan areas and the slaughter of villagers in the countryside. Outbreaks of violence between ethnic Serbs, Muslims and Croats threaten a shaky peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Pinkerton 0181-424 8884

Operator targets 'green' tourists

By TONY DAWE

HELPING to monitor chimpanzees and their habitat in the Congo and working alongside Russian anti-poaching units protecting tigers are among the unique holidays offered by an environmental travel company launched this week.

Discovery Initiatives plans to give travellers the chance to play their own part in saving threatened species and regions by joining conservation projects and working alongside local people as well as scientists.

"The real difference about our programme is that tourists will become closely involved with the communities they want to help," says Julian Matthews, the company's founder.

"Many of these projects are the sort of schemes which people might write a small cheque to support. By joining the project for a holiday, tourists will know that the money they are spending, as well as their time, will go directly towards helping achieve their objective."

The launch of the company follows the success of Earthwatch, the Oxford-based

charity which now sends thousands of travellers to work on conservation projects around the world. Matthews has consulted Earthwatch directors before finalising his programme.

Tourists taking part in the dozen projects available this year will fly to the area and move into a specially-prepared camp. There they will meet scientists and local people engaged in the schemes to be briefed before going to work themselves.

In the Congo, for example, tourists will help to survey the plants and animals, including wild chimpanzees within the new reserve set up by the Jane Goodall Institute as well as helping to care for and feed orphaned baby chimps.

Matthews also promises "jolly outings" to see local sites and people — as well as less jolly ones to witness the impact of indiscriminate logging. The aim of one project, in British Columbia, Canada, is to gather enough detail about plants and animals, including brown

bears, to convince government agencies that the area needs protection from mining and logging schemes.

Tourists joining the Rivers Canada project will travel down the Taku River on whitewater rafts to establish daily base camps as a springboard for photographing the scenery, surveying the wildlife and studying native American sites along the riverbank.

The Congo programme costs £2,895 a person and is available on three dates in July and August; the Canada project costs £3,985 in September. The Russian tiger project £3,575, and some schemes are available for less than £2,000. Most of them last a fortnight.

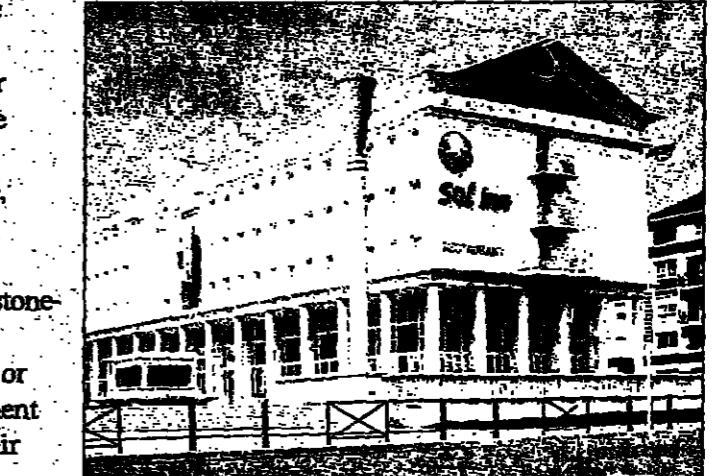
Meanwhile, Earthwatch is going from strength to strength and will announce later this month details of a £1 million funding from the Millennium Commission. The money will provide fellowships to 500 teachers and education officers to join Earthwatch projects.

Discovery Initiatives: 0171-229 9881; Earthwatch: 01865 311600. Pinkerton 0181-424 8884

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NEWS

Sotheby's suspends senior staff

■ Sotheby's, the world's oldest and biggest auctioneers, suspended senior members of staff yesterday amid allegations that it systematically broke the law to smuggle art treasures.

A hidden camera carried by an investigator from the Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme filmed Roeland Kollewijn, Sotheby's Old Masters expert in Milan, offering to smuggle a work by the Italian painter Giuseppe Nogari to Britain. He makes a series of damaging admissions. — Pages 1, 14, 15, 17

Widow unable to explain attack

■ A headmistress described her "total devastation" on learning that her husband was stabbed to death as he struggled with a bank manager's wife at her home. Soon after identifying the body of David Stuchbery, 49, his widow, Linda, said she could not explain the attack on a neighbour. — Page 1

Tube plan shelved

Fears of a hostile public reaction following leaks have forced the Government to shelve, at short notice, a high-profile launch in the Commons of its Tube privatisation plans. — Page 1

Two-stage pay rises

The Cabinet is expected to agree to a recommendation from Kenneth Clarke for 2 per cent pay rises for 1.3 million public sector workers this April, with a top-up in December. — Page 1

Judge shortage

Judges said that a proposed Labour pay freeze could damage recruitment because of the gap between earnings of judges and leading lawyers, from whom judges are drawn. — Page 2

Lessons in love

An English teacher who has three children by different fathers was forced to resign from a Roman Catholic school after two affairs, a tribunal heard. — Page 3

Burma reconciliation

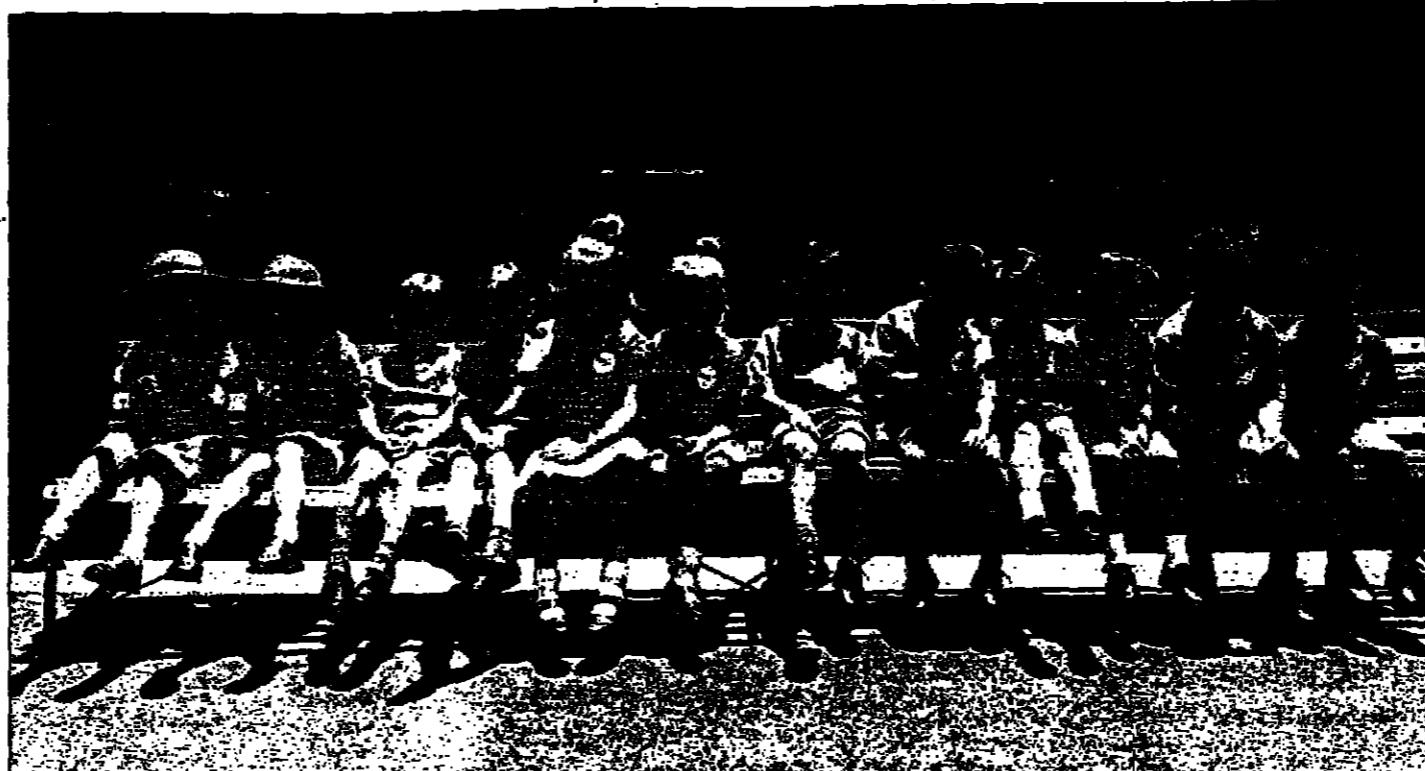
British and Japanese war veterans are to visit cemeteries in Burma together in a gesture of reconciliation to commemorate those who died there. — Page 4

My Fair Legacy

The British Museum, RADA and the National Gallery of Ireland, the main beneficiaries of George Bernard Shaw's estate, will share *My Fair Lady* royalties. — Page 5

For Sale: clergyman's temple of love

■ One of the most scandalous addresses of the Victorian age is up for sale. 150 years after it was built as a temple of love by an errant clergyman, Barford Gables in Somerset was known as "The Abode of Love" when the Rev Henry Prince, a self-styled new Messiah, installed a bevy of "soul brides" there. Sexual ceremonies took place on a billiard-table "altar". — Page 3



Six sets of twins started school at Governor Philip King Primary School in Sydney yesterday, a record for New South Wales

BUSINESS

Bank merger: Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter, Discover are to merge and create the world's largest international investment bank with a market capitalisation of about \$21 billion. — Page 23

ScotAm: Prudential Corporation has begun a £1.9 billion bid battle with Abbey National to take over Scottish Amicable. — Page 23

BT digital deal: BT is to become the largest shareholder in the £600 million company which will help to develop set-top boxes to receive digital television. — Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 climbed 20.6 points to 4281.5. Sterling's trade weighted index rose 1.1 points to 96.8 with the pound rising from DM2.6591 to DM2.6905 and from \$1.6202 to \$1.6322. — Page 26

Clinton upstaged

President Clinton's State of the Union address was almost upstaged by Julius Caesar, the black Republican minister who responded. — Page 10, 17

OJ ruined

The defeat of O.J. Simpson in his second trial has left him facing financial ruin and Americans contemplating a deep racial rift. — Page 11, 16

Zaire ultimatum

Zaire's rebel leader, speaking from his marble-lined palace in Goma, gave President Mobutu two weeks to relinquish power or face removal by force. — Page 12

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6 1997

Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter, Discover in \$21bn deal

Wall Street banks to merge



The deal sent the banks' shares up on Wall Street

MORGAN Stanley and Dean Witter, Discover are to merge to create the world's largest international investment bank with a market capitalisation of about \$21 billion.

The deal, unveiled in New York yesterday, caught rivals and analysts on both sides of the Atlantic on the hop. The merger is by far the largest between two investment banks, creating an organisation that will easily surpass Merrill Lynch, until now the largest in the US.

Morgan Stanley has a market capitalisation of \$8.8 billion and made profits of \$1.6 billion last year, while Dean Witter is capitalised at \$13

billion with reported profits of \$952 million. The move ends Morgan Stanley's long search for a merger partner that almost ended in a deal with SG Warburg, the British merchant bank, in 1995 before the US bank pulled out at the last moment over fears of large-scale redundancies.

John Mack, head of Morgan Stanley, will be president of the combined company. He said that he had been talking about a merger with Dean Witter for three years.

Philip Purcell, head of Dean Witter, will be chairman and chief executive of the combined company. He said the merger was driven by the need

to consolidate in the global finance industry where size and market share have become essential for success.

It would also combine two of the world's best known financial brand names. He said that although there would be some cost cutting it was not the main reason for the merger.

The merged company will be the investment banking leader in international mergers and acquisitions, international and US new share issues, asset management and a range of other businesses.

Analysts said the deal was likely to trigger a wave of copycat mergers among investment banks that believe

the largest will survive in the increasingly global and competitive finance industry.

News of the deal sent shares in both banks soaring on the New York stock market, with Morgan Stanley rising \$7.75 to around \$65 and Dean Witter by \$1.80 to \$40.50. Under the merger terms, Dean Witter

will swap 1,645 shares for every Morgan Stanley share, giving its shareholders a 55 per cent stake in the new group.

To discourage disruptive counter-bids, both the companies have given each other share options to buy 19.9 per cent of the other. The combined firm will be called,

Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co.

The merger, which is expected to be completed by the middle of this year, is remarkable in putting together two radically different kinds of US investment bank.

Dean Witter's main business is selling stocks, bonds, savings products and credit cards to millions of retail investors, while Morgan Stanley concentrates on wholesale markets.

Until 1993 the bank was owned by Sears, Roebuck & Co, the US department store. Morgan Stanley was looking for ways to stabilise its often volatile earnings from wholesale financial markets by moving into more stable businesses, particularly in retail markets.

Among Dean Witter's most successful products is its Discover card, which is the third largest credit and charge card in the US with 39 million customers and outstanding balances of \$34.4 billion.

Dean Witter, which has funds under management of \$90 billion, will also give Morgan Stanley greater distribution power for its own asset management division which, since its purchase of Van Kampen last year, looks after funds of \$171 billion. The merged bank will have \$270 billion in managed funds.

Pranington, page 25

Walker hails new opportunities

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR David Walker, head of Morgan Stanley's European operations, last night hailed the merger with Dean Witter, Discover as "very exciting" and one that provided great new business opportunities in mainland Europe and Asia.

Sir David also said that US investors had an enormous appetite for high quality UK and European share issues and other equity and bond-based products. These will now be sold through the vast network of branches and offices

lets that the newly merged Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover operation could provide. Dean Witter has a small presence in London and Sir David added: "We will eventually look for cost savings, but these will not be a significant feature."

The merger is also expected to lead to a re-rating of the enlarged group's stock. Sir David said the enhanced earnings from the merger would also help the European operation to plan much further.

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Walker: "very exciting"

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ScotAm puts itself up for sale as Pru tops Abbey bid

By MARIANNE CORPEH, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH AMICABLE put itself up for sale yesterday after Prudential Corporation began what is expected to be a fierce bidding war with Abbey National for the life insurer by taking a £1.9 billion offer.

The bid came just hours before Scottish Amicable was to have begun mailing a circular to 1.1 million policyholders. This would have recommended that policyholders accept the demutualisation and flotation plans proposed by Scottish Amicable's board a fortnight ago.

Abbey National hinted yesterday that it was prepared to increase its initial £1.1 billion to £1.4 billion offer. It said its £400 million cash or shares goodwill payment, had always been a "minimum".

Scottish Amicable has appointed SBC Warburg to seek competitive offers over the next fortnight.

Prudential is offering £400 million in cash or Prudential shares to policyholders. In addition, it plans to pay £1.1 billion into Scottish Amicable's with-profit life fund and then close it down.

It guarantees to pay policyholders £150 million of special bonuses from cost savings made in the life fund as soon as the deal is completed, plus a further £250 million from the fund over time, depending on

performance. The latter sum is not guaranteed. Prudential will invest around £250 million of shareholders' funds to acquire the Scottish Amicable name and business.

Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive of Prudential, said: "This is a firm offer. Whether it is the final offer depends on the information made available to us by Scottish Amicable."

He gave no guarantees on the future of Scottish Amicable's management team or its employees, but said he wanted "to keep the Scottish Amicable name and a significant presence in Scotland and not

us".

Prudential has been working on a bid for Scottish Amicable for over a year and is believed to have already made at least one approach.

The deal should give Prudential exposure to new business sold through independent financial advisers.

Scottish Amicable's chairman, Sandy Stewart, said the board had ruled out increasing its own terms to policyholders. "The board will now seek competing definitive offers from other parties, including Abbey National. If the offers materialise as we expect them to do it is unlikely that we will remain independent."

Abbey National sent a second letter to Scottish Amicable yesterday reiterating its offer.

Charles Toner, deputy chief executive of Abbey, said: "We remain confident that our offer will be very attractive."

Marks & Spencer expects to appeal both to the expatriate Britons working in the Gulf and to locals.

Davis, firm offer

per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, and the three other investors expect to reach agreement on Iso's final structure within a few weeks. Their combined investment will probably be no less than £500 million and as high as £700 million.

The money will allow the set-top boxes to retail in chains, such as Comet and Dixons, for about £200, against a factory price of £50 or so. BSkyB fears that a price that high would ensure that few subscribers would switch from analogue to the digital service. Iso has been negotiating with BSkyB since November, when Barclays pulled out

M&S plan to open branches in Gulf

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE Gulf Arab women who flock to Marks & Spencer's Oxford Street branches in London will soon be able to buy the same goods nearer to home.

The company has revealed plans to open its first branch in the Gulf later this year. Under a franchise agreement with a local partner, the Dubai-based Al-Futtaim Sons, a branch will be opened in either the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar or Oman. It will be the first step by Marks & Spencer, which has close ties with Israel, into the Arab world.

Other branches in these countries are set to follow. The agreement with Al-Futtaim Sons does not cover Saudi Arabia, where Marks & Spencer is also eager to expand. It may seek a separate partner for that country.

Keith Oates, deputy chairman, said that opening in the Gulf is "an important strategic step in our goal to be one of the leading global volume retailers". Mr Oates added: "Sales trends at recently opened stores in Cologne, Bordeaux and Prague have shown growing worldwide demand for our merchandise."

Marks & Spencer expects to appeal both to the expatriate Britons working in the Gulf and to locals.

Pennington, page 25

Markets at record levels as rates stay the same

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITISH and American interest rates were left unchanged yesterday, confirming a sense of financial market optimism that sent European stock markets to close at record levels and the dollar to a four-year high against the yen.

After Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, met Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday morning, the Bank signalled no change to rates during its money market operations and is not expected to signal any change today. The two-day meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee also ended with no change in US rates.

British base rates stay at 6 per cent while, in America, Fed Funds remain at 5.25 per cent. Decisions to leave rates unchanged were widely expected in both cases. Currency strength probably helped to tip the balance against higher rates. After January's monetary meeting only three weeks ago, Mr Clarke cited sterling as a very inflationary force and yesterday, Wayne Angell, a former Federal Reserve Governor, predicted that it was unlikely that the Fed would raise rates while the dollar was rising so strongly.

Both currencies were star performers yesterday. Sterling recorded its highest level against the yen since October 1992 and gained more than three pence against the mark to close at DM2.6905. It also climbed more than a cent against the dollar. The dollar climbed to DM1.6473 and

Y123.50 in late European trade, up from DM1.6424 and Y122.30 late on Tuesday.

In London, the FTSE 100 index closed 20.6 points higher at 4,281.5, a record finish.

Shares in Frankfurt and Paris also closed at new peaks on hopes that American interest rates would not be raised.

Pennington, page 25

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Pennington

IDS hails public sector pay policy

By JASON NISSE

THE Government's public sector pay policy is proclaimed a success by Britain's leading independent pay analysts as the Cabinet today meets to approve staged wage rises for key public sector employees.

Income Data Services (IDS), the independent pay analysts, today says that the policy of a pay bill freeze for the last three years, drawn directly from suggestions by the CBI and following a strict 1.5 per cent pay limit, has been "running very successfully from the Government's point of view".

When different stages of the policy were announced, some trade union leaders gave warning of strike action, but IDS notes that the policy "has met with very little effective trade union resistance".

In its latest annual public services pay review, IDS says that the Government's policy "has resulted in lower pay settlements than in much of the private sector" in areas such as local government, health and education.

IDS says that in the third year of the pay bill freeze, there has been greater diversity in pay settlements, with deals running at between 2.5 and 4 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

Actress beats ex-Chancellor in ad stakes

M&G's advertising agency paid Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, less than £100,000 for his appearance in the company's new TV campaign for Peps, considerably less than it paid Helen Mirren, the actress (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Rainey Kelly Campbell & Rolfe paid Ms Mirren £300,000 for her role in Virgin Airline's TV adverts. Virgin Direct, the group's financial services arm, is a competitor to M&G in the Peps market. M&G's two 30-second adverts will be broadcast next week. Lord Lawson introduced Peps in 1987. Tempus, page 26



Lord Lawson endorses Peps being sold by M&G in the 30-second TV advert

Judges likely to rule today whether SFO in contempt

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TWO High Court judges are today expected to give a ruling on whether the director of the Serious Fraud Office and four of his senior colleagues are guilty of contempt of court over their handling of an investigation into the \$1.8 billion Sumitomo copper fraud.

After hearing evidence for the second day about an SFO raid on Kay Accounting last December, Lord Justice Steaghton, sitting with Mr Justice Scott Baker, indicated

that he could give a verdict on the contempt charge today. George Staple, the SFO director, Andrew Jackson and Chris Walker, both fraud office lawyers, and Michael Hainey, a computer expert, and Anne Dilks, a financial investigator, have all been named in the contempt proceedings. The case was brought after the SFO raided the offices of Kay Accounting in Radlett, Hertfordshire, and removed documents, comput-

Buy-in consortium wins rail franchise

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE franchise for North West Regional Railways, a loss-making commuter train company operating services in and around Manchester, Liverpool, West Yorkshire and north Wales, has been sold to a management buy-in. The franchise was awarded to a consortium comprising the management and employees of Great Western Trains, which already has an InterCity franchise, FirstBus and 3i. Great Western will have a controlling 51 per cent

share. The consortium, known as Great Western Holdings (GWH), has pledged to provide extra local services and new long distance services to London. It will spend £1.5 million on refurbishing existing trains, £5 million on improving stations and £1 million a year on additional security measures. Under the deal the franchise requires subsidy of about £185 million. GWH will get average subsidy of £148.3 million over seven years.

Feeling the pressure, page 27



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France Fr 9.42	8.77
Germany Dm 2.82	2.61
Greece Dr 438	413
Hong Kong \$ 13.25	12.00
Iceland Kr 1.07	0.99
Ireland Str 5.68	5.03
Italy Lira 2748	2593
Japan Yen 213.80	187.80
Malta Lira 0.850	0.805
Netherlands Gld 3.145	2.913
New Zealand \$ 2.22	2.04
Norway Kr 11.04	10.24
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BUSINESS NEWS

New regulations to fight money scams

NEW regulations aimed at stamping out fraudulent "money circulation" scams come into force today. They affect not only the organisers of such schemes but anyone who joins and tries to persuade other people to take part will also be committing a criminal offence. Money circulation schemes, where people pay a joining fee — sometimes thousands of pounds — and then receive payments from the people they recruit, usually fail when recruitment dries up, with those last in most likely to be the losers.

One supposed money-making venture known as Titan was shut down by the Government last year, and it was estimated that investors lost up to £17 million. The Trading Schemes Act brings money circulation schemes under the control of the Fair Trading Act, said the Department of Trade and Industry. Until now, the DTI had to use time-consuming Companies Act legislation. There is now a penalty of up to two years in prison.

RJB in new buyback

RJB MINING, the largest coal producer in the UK, yesterday spent £31.5 million to buy back 5 per cent of its shares. The repurchase, totalling 3.5 million shares at a price of 370p, took the company to the limit of its authority to buy back shares in the current financial year. Since last August it has spent £125.5 million on share repurchases. Companies are allowed to repurchase up to 15 per cent of their shares each year.

Pension redress nearer

THE pensions industry is making progress in its efforts to compensate workers set to suffer financial loss after leaving the Government's earnings-related pension scheme, according to a report by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the City's senior watchdog. But several pension providers have yet to give a detailed commitment, raising fears of delays, according to the progress report which was originally due to be published last autumn.

Pennington, page 25

Gulf holding at 5.56%

GULF CANADA, which is fighting to take over Clyde Petroleum, yesterday claimed in speak for 5.56 per cent of the shares in the target company. On Tuesday Gulf raised its cash offer by 15p to 120p per share, valuing the UK exploration and production group at £494.6 million. Yesterday Gulf said it had bought 3.76 per cent since launching its bid to bring its holding, including acceptances, to about 5.56 per cent. So far Clyde has resolutely resisted the approach from the Canadian oil company.

Sony's record forecast

SONY CORP, the Japanese consumer electronics giant, yesterday promised a sharp rise in profits, powered by strong sales of electronic goods and a weak yen. Sony now expects record annual group net profit of 132 billion yen (about £626 million), nearly 2.5 times the net profit in the 1995-96 financial year, on sales of \$3 trillion yen. Yesterday Sony reported quarterly net profits of 75.38 billion yen and sales of £67 trillion yen.

Mattel inches ahead

MATTEL, the largest toymaker in America, said fourth-quarter earnings rose only 1 per cent, weighed down by its refund offer for the Cabbage Patch Kids' Snacktime Kids' doll and a special accounting charge. Mattel earned \$113.5 million in the fourth quarter, compared with \$112 million. Earnings for the year were \$379 million, up from \$357 million. Separately, Tyco Toys Inc had reduced fourth quarter losses, because of the popularity of the Tickle Me Elmo doll during Christmas.

Water dispute escalates

NORTH WEST WATER, half of United Utilities, is suing its main computer database supplier after a protracted row between the two sides. The system to manage the water supply was supposed to begin working in 1995 after Oracle had started the project a year earlier. But in the autumn of that year it was halted and the two sides blame each other for its failure. The provider has said that specifications changed since the start of the contract.

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□ Threat from Dean Witter and Morgan merger □ Watchdog's subtle approach to pensions □ Pru's hat in the ring

□ WHY do so many American investment banks have names that suggest Hollywood film or soap stars? Dean Witter is surely the honest but rough-edged hero, dressed in a plaid shirt no doubt, an oil man or a farmer; Morgan Stanley, note the androgynous forename, the Barbie-haired vamp who leads him astray until the last reel.

While most of America was transfixed by the latest O.J. Simpson drama, this surprise soap opera wedding was absorbing the financial markets. It is as if Schroders had taken up with the Share Shop, except on a scale a hundred times greater. Dean Witter is the name in retail broking, the Shares 'R Us with, on average, seven branches in each state even if the retail base is a little more downmarket.

Morgan Stanley has come a long way since it refused to employ Jews, and the only blacks were shining shoes in the lobby. Now it ranks number one in the world market for mergers and acquisitions advice, and you don't get there by being stuffy about whom you employ.

The idea is that Morgan's brainpower and fund management skills are allied to Dean Witter's retail reach. This creates a bigger rival for the only American house to have built up pre-eminence in both areas, Merrill Lynch. The scope for expansion is into areas of the world where there is untapped demand for equity finance.

The deal might seem to favour Morgan more than Dean Witter, in that it lessens the former's reliance on investment banking, where earnings are inevitably tied to volatile M&A activity. It is also, plainly, an alternative to Morgan's planned hook-up with our own dear Warburg, now swallowed by SBC.

This last merger suggests just where the new American alliance could go wrong, the old problem of culture clash. Warburg's people left in droves because they did not like the rather racy Swiss Bank culture. Likewise the 1980s creation of Shearson Lehman, which fell apart by the end of the decade.

In Morgan/Dean Witter's favour is the fact that both are such different beasts. But you do not

create an integrated business by injecting a small amount of banking brain into a financial behemoth.

If it does work, we had all better watch out, in London as on Wall Street. If and when stock markets turn the shake-out in financial circles could be horrendous, and the race will be to the bigger runners. Why else should bond dealers such as Hamptons and Phoenix Securities have decided to throw their hats in with the big battalions?

SIBology, and other sciences

□ IN THE days of the old Soviet Union, the need to decipher the nuances of political life led to the foundation of a modern science: Kremlinology. If Kruschev parted his hair on a different side, canny Kremlinologists would be able to deduce what was in and out of favour.

Yesterday saw the birth of a

similar science at the Securities and Investments Board. The City's most senior watchdog was unveiling its survey of progress in aiding victims of the pensions upheavals of the Eighties.

No, not the mis-selling scandal again. The SIB was checking on the fortunes of people who contracted out of Serps, the Government's earnings-related pension scheme. In the 1980s, millions were persuaded by financial inducements to transfer their contributions to a personal pension.

Up to 230,000 people may be worse off as a result. In a report

last May, the SIB said flat charges levied by pension providers were a big factor in these losses. Many life insurers promised to change their ways. As an incentive, the SIB said it would check on progress in another report.

This status report turned out to be an astonishingly anodyne document, concluding that "steps are being taken to mitigate problems". No sign of any real regulatory disipline.

But what was that? A flutter of the eyebrow of chief executive Andrew Winckler? A discreet, Jeeves-like cough? Indeed, sir. Conscious of the fact that it has no control of charges levied by pension providers, the SIB is resorting to regulation by a nudge and a wink, part of a general strategy to find more effective measures than fining.

It turns out several companies are dragging their heels. SIBologists, aware of the new approach, were presented with enough information in the report

to spot regulatory impatience beneath the placid surface. Prevarications from life companies who are "conducting a review" of the situation, without any timetabled commitment to actually completing it, were reported verbatim. Just for the record, mind. Wink, wink.

Winners and losers in ScotAm battle

□ A MILLION trees can breathe again. Scottish Amicable has bowed to the inevitable and is pulling the 30-page document that was to have gone out at the weekend to its 1.1 million members. Instead, it is a straight bidding war for the insurer, all sensible prices considered, please as long as they are higher than the £1.9 billion the Prudential is offering.

The first might come from the Abbey itself, whose play for ScotAm was always a sighting shot. The Pru's approach is a

clever one, mixing an immediate payment with additional bonuses added to policies and putting a firm £1.1 billion price on the life fund. The policy-holders will be the winners. The ScotAm board, given the different cultures that prevail in the two organisations, will be the losers. Unlike the Abbey, the Pru is making no promises to them.

Signal failure

□ THE money markets are one of those arcane crannies of the City that outsiders never really understand. Time was when a gentleman in a top hat from the Bank of England did the rounds of the money brokers; nowadays it is all done on screens. But the twice or thrice-daily ritual is still adhered to, and this is how we all know what we will be paying in future for our mortgages and bank loans. Except that yesterday we didn't: technical reasons and tradition meant that rates could rise today, but most likely they will not. The signal from the Bank stayed stuck on amber. There must be a better way of signalling the country's main economic indicator. Perhaps a puff of grey smoke from Threadneedle Street?

BSkyB to order 1m set-top boxes as profits rise 26%

By Eric REGALY

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, confirmed yesterday that it will order as many as a million set-top boxes, costing £500 million or more, for its digital television launch in the autumn. The company's plans to enter the German digital-TV market, however, have run into obstacles.

The announcements came as BSkyB reported a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £134 million, in the half-year to December 31. It also reported the recruitment of a record 434,000 new subscribers in the final quarter. BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, now has about six million subscribers in the UK.



Chisholm: keeping analogue

Broadcasting to bid for the terrestrial licences.

Mr Chisholm said that BSkyB will continue to offer analogue services for "five

years, maybe more", noting that analogue systems are "the cheapest way" for new subscribers to take satellite TV.

In Germany, BSkyB is in negotiations to buy 49 per cent of DFI, the digital-TV company controlled by Kirch, the media group. DFI has not gained as many subscribers as expected and analysts said that it needed a marketing agreement or merger with Premiere, a German pay-TV service that is one-quarter owned by Kirch, to boost its fortunes.

Mr Chisholm said: "There are some important issues that need to be resolved, and until they're resolved, we won't proceed... If we don't proceed, there will be no cost involved in Sky."

Analysts still expect BSkyB to strike an agreement with Kirch and Premiere because Germany has the potential to become Europe's largest pay-TV market.

BSkyB's interim earnings per share were 7.1p, compared with 5.6p, on turnover that rose 26 per cent to £383.6 million. Higher subscription revenue was behind the stronger figures. Revenue from cable customers rose 62 per cent, to £3.1 million, reflecting the continued expansion of the cable networks. Revenue from the direct-to-home subscribers was up 21 per cent to £410 million.

An interim dividend of 2.75p, up 10 per cent, is to be paid on April 4. The shares closed at 623p, up 30p.

Euro Disney finance chief to depart

EURO DISNEY, operator of the Disney theme park near Paris, announced yesterday that Xavier de Mezerac, its finance director, is to leave after two and a half years (Sarah Cunningham writes).

His decision follows the company's decision to hive off his responsibilities for information technology and purchasing, a spokesman said. M de Mezerac is expected to become finance director of another leading French company.

Gilles Pélisson, president of Euro Disney, will temporarily oversee financial matters. M de Mezerac took over as finance director in August 1994 after Michael Montgomery, who oversaw much of Euro Disney's refinancing, left.

Triplex bows out of Cook bid battle

By FRASER NELSON

TRIPLEX LLOYD, the specialist engineering company, has abandoned its £72.5 million bid for rival William Cook, ending the bitterly-fought takeover battle.

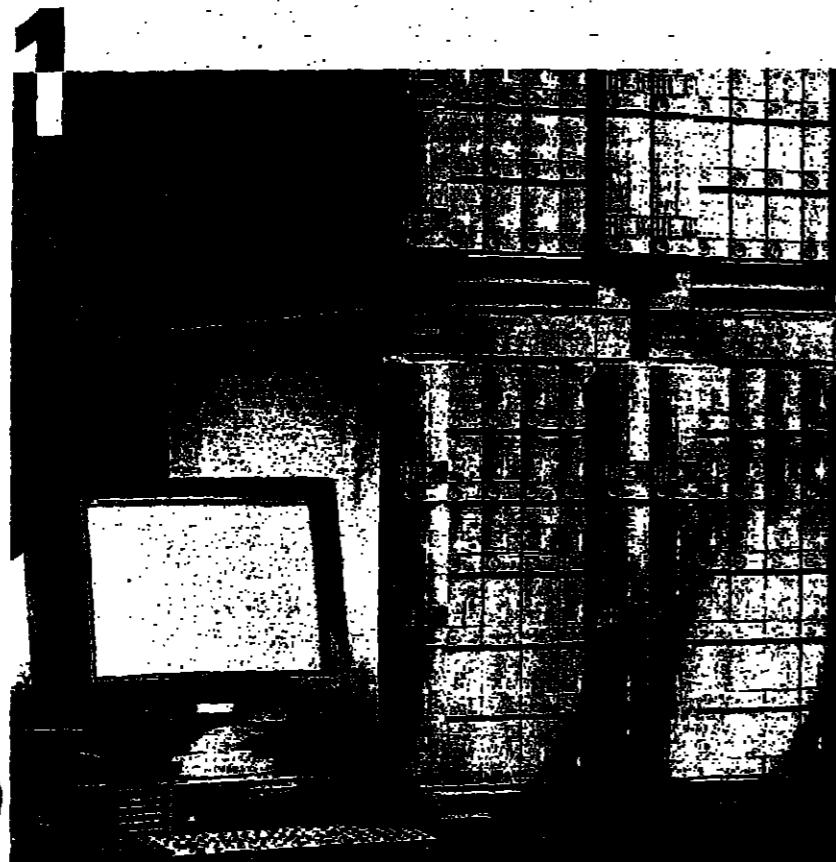
Graham Lockyer, Triplex's chief executive, said the company was faced with either walking away from the bid, or delivering a knockout blow from the market. He is putting £2.5 million of his own money into the bid, which will lift his stake from 4 to 14 per cent.

Under terms imposed by Electra Fleming, the venture capital group putting £38 million into the buyout, Mr Cook's salary will fall from £500,000 to £200,000 a year, and the length of his contract will drop from five years to two.

Triplex said its decision to retreat was not connected with the public rebuke it suffered from the Takeover Panel, over leaking information during the bid.

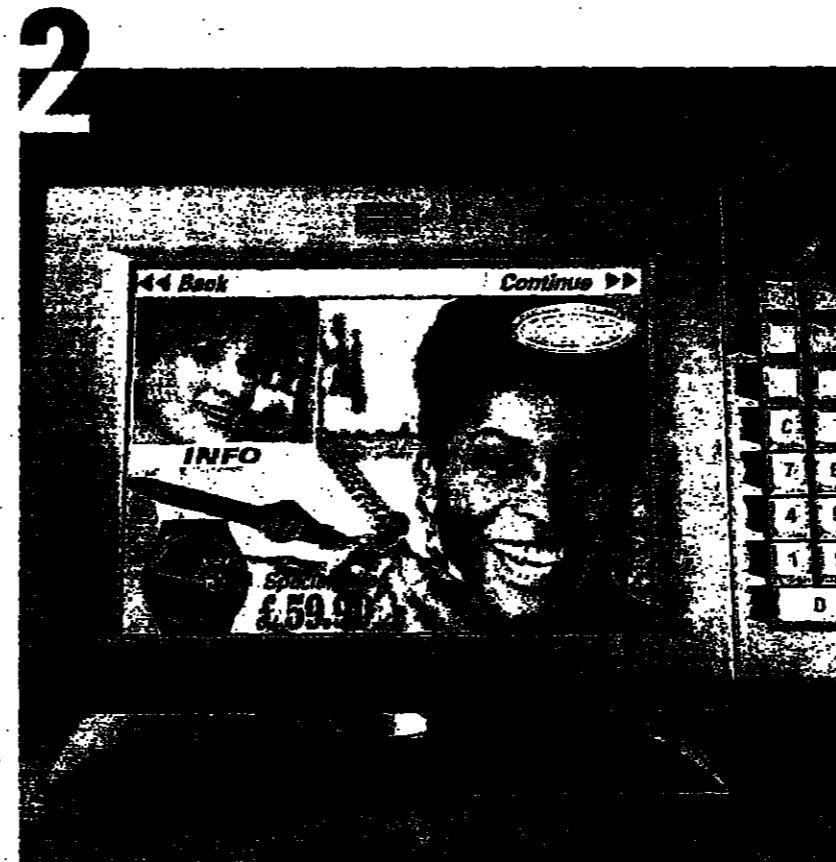
SIEMENS NIXDORF

at a dispute escal



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make a Smart Retailer.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

EMI shares at low as blues hit music industry

THE hammer came down again on EMI Group, the other half of the recently demerged Thorn EMI. The price dropped through the £12 level with a fall of 52p to a new low of £11.47, as the City takes an increasingly bearish view of the music industry worldwide.

EMI has now fallen almost 25p in the past month and now stands 332p below its peak since being demerged from Thorn last year. Poor figures from Sony, one of the world's biggest music producers, and a host of American record companies has highlighted the deteriorating state of the record and CD market. Music Land, a big US record and CD retailer, last week filed for protection from bankruptcy under Chapter 11.

Some brokers take the view that EMI is now looking oversold, but all of them agree that 1997 looks like being a tough year for the group. Thorn, which has seen its share price halve since the demerger, rose 4p to 200p.

Elsewhere, share prices hit a new intra-trading high of 4.28p, as investors began to take an increasingly optimistic view of the outlook for interest rates either side of the Atlantic. Helped by a positive start to trading on Wall Street, the FT-SE 100 index closed 20.6 up at a new closing high of 4.281.5, with a fresh wave of institutional buying lifting turnover to 790 million shares.

The Prudential Corporation rose 13p to 554p after throwing its hat in the ring by topping Abbey National's £1.4 billion offer for Scottish Amicable. Brokers now expect other bidders to show their hand as the battle for control of Scottish Amicable turns into a Dutch auction. Abbey finished 5p down at 782p.

The banks were firmer ahead of the dividend reporting season which gets under way next week. HSBC rose 2p to £15.22, Standard Chartered 14p to 786p, Barclays 8p to £11.68p, and National Westminster 10p to 796p.

The news that Triplex Lloyd was allowing its bid for William Cook to lapse came too late to affect the shares. William Cook closed unchanged at 425p, as did Triplex at 197p.

ICI was a steady market, rising 7p to 764p in front of full-year figures today expected to show a sharp downturn in pre-tax profits. BT was in



Richard Budge of RJB, 5p firmer after a share buyback

confident mood ahead of third-quarter results, out today, with the price hardening 13p to 44p on turnover of 7.7 million shares.

Some positive comments from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, were good news for Shell, 17p better at 101.80, while Tomkins added 8p at 283p as SBC Warburg, the broker, upgraded its

rating to 'buy'.

Dixons rallied 10p to 492p after Tuesday's fall. Cazenove, the company's broker, is said to have told clients that selling has been overdone. Last week, Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman, sold 1.1 million shares at 520p after criticising Greig Middleton, the broker, for urging its own clients to sell.

"hold" to a "buy".

The City gave a warm reception to half-year figures from BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, that owns *The Times*, which responded with a jump of 29p to 62p.

Carlton slipped 10p to 552p in spite of an upbeat statement about current trading. Michael Green, chairman, told

Budge, chief executive, firmed 5p to 375p after completing a buyback of 5 per cent of its own stock. It paid 390p for the 8.56 million shares, worth £3.4 million.

Shield Diagnostics extended this week's remarkable run with a rise of a further 8p to 257p, stretching the rise of the past two days to 88p.

Cairn Energy finished 1p higher at 538p on revived hopes

that it will be taken over by its profit-taking shareholders.

Manchester fell 9p to 710p after being dumped out of the FA Cup by Wimbledon's Crazy Gang at Selhurst Park.

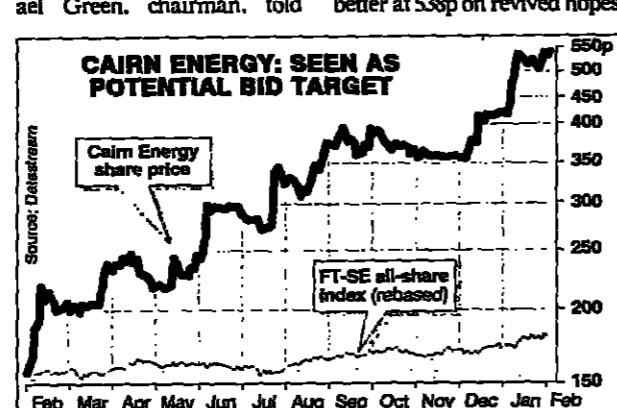
■ **GILT-EDGED:** This week's strong run faltered as the profit-takers emerged.

The March series of the long gilt touched £1123p before closing 1p down at £1121p. Turnover was 108,000 contracts.

Treasury 3 per cent 2015 lost 1p to £105.4, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1p lower at £1031p.

■ **NEW YORK:** Shares were mixed at mid-session as renewed weakness in the technology sector tempered a cautious advance by blue chips. The Dow Jones industrial average was 11.55 higher at 6,845.03.

Source: Datamonitor
Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb
Cairn Energy share price
FT-SE all-share index (rebased)



COMMODITIES

Liffe

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Yield: 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00

Call: 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00

Put: 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00 220.00

Volume: 2000

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CITY DIARY

Overseas challenge

LORD MacLAURIN of Knebworth was yesterday crowned KPMG Businessman of the Year.

The outgoing chairman of the supermarket chain Tesco couldn't be present at the Grosvenor House reception, however. As chairman of the UK Sports Council, he is overseas looking after England's "belaguered cricketers".

Lord MacLaurin apologised to guests via a video recording, made before heading off to New Zealand. "I guess there are a few challenges over there too," he quipped.

Early departure

A BEVY of politicians attended the party for Sir Robin Ibbotson, the retiring chairman of Lloyds TSB, on Tuesday. Michael Heseltine, a brace of Bottonies, Sir Geoffrey and Lady Howe, and Peter Mandelson were among the impressive turnout from industry, the City, and politics, for the banker who retires on Friday. Guests who arrived after 6.30pm, however, would have missed Peter Ellwood, the chief executive-designate — he had a very pressing and long-standing engagement.

JOHN Strickland, chairman of HSBC, is paying particular attention to the bank's former flagship offices in Shanghai. On the behest of the Chinese authorities, the Hongkong bank agreed to vacate the building in 1993. More recently, Strickland has been approached to buy it back. He said, with a wry smile on his face: "They wanted too much money."



Prime mistake

SIR John Egan will be none too pleased with the Department of National Heritage. The august body yesterday produced *Success through Partnership — A Strategy for Tourism*, a glossy publication in which Sir John was referred to as head of the British Airports Authority and British Tourism Authority. Almost ten years ago, when the company was privatised, a detail was set in stone that it should henceforth be known only as BAA plc in the same 35-page brochure. John Major was referred to as "Prime Minister" and the United Kingdom was displayed on a colourful graph as a sun/ski destination".

Golden idea

IN protest against economists and politicians' differing over a single European currency, a specialist sports car company in Crediton, Devon, is quoting prices in gold bullion. Marlin Cars, which manufactures Hurley two-seater sports cars, is valuing its latest sports tourer at 85oz of precious metal. "We are sick and tired of all this posturing over whether the UK should opt in, opt out, or even twin-track," a cynical Terry Matthews, director, said. "We have decided to go it alone and cut short the debate by being more than happy to quote international prices of our cars in gold," he added. "As a unit of value, gold is recognised the world over as a form of constant and hedge against monetary uncertainty."

MORAG PRESTON

Many years ago, the new boss of a sprawling northern engineering company was asked what he expected the company to look like in five years time. "In five years' time, ladie, I'll be dead", came the instant deadpan response. He was 68 at the time, bore a slight resemblance to Pope John XXIII and had been waiting in the wings for years. Sadly, his self-diagnosis proved correct. Within three years, however, this old man in a hurry had transformed the company he had worked for all those years.

Barring some bizarre circumstance, that is most unlikely to happen today. Having failed to make the top the first time, our future chairman would have been discarded in his fifties to become a consultant or professional non-executive. In any case, City fund managers averaging about half that age would never voluntarily accept a new driving force for a quoted company who was already past the state retirement age. Such is the prejudice against even middle age that anyone over 55 is at a disadvantage when it comes to the choice of a new chief executive.

Under-fifties are even preferred when political parties choose potential new chief executives for the country. Issue-free image-makers argue that they present a more attractive image of vigour to the nation's voters. Bob Dole did not stand a chance.

Such intolerance is not confined to the over-fifties. There is just as much prejudice

Gilded youth can spice up that politically correct board

against young people at the top, though it comes out in a different way. This week, a new executive director was appointed at Next who is claimed to be the youngest at a top-100 company. Maybe. At 29, the appointee is scarcely a beardless youth and has worked six years for Next. The trouble is, as querulous City head-shaking, sniffing and muttering attest, that Simon Wolfson is the son of Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, chairman of Next as well as of Great Universal Stores, the Wolfson family company. Lord Wolfson and David Jones, the chief executive who sought to advance Wolfson fils, have made so much money for Next shareholders that they will be allowed to offend the delicate nostrils of institutional investors, now hyper-allergic to nepotism. But these *nouveau riche* leverlars have already issued warnings. Mr Wolfson will be watched with hooded eyes, expected to perform better than others to justify his irregular path to the board.

Such prejudice has dogged Robert Hanson, son of Lord Hanson, and the late Simon Weinstock, son of the creator of the modern

GEC, among others. It placed an extra burden on Sir Rocco Forte. No wonder most magnates' children choose to make their way elsewhere, where their name is usually an unqualified, if less potent, asset. Few would suggest a return to dynastic succession. There are too many examples, from the first Lord Rothschild on, where a patriarch's family values send more able outsiders away and stultify growth. GUS has lost such people, as well as finding some in the family.

Industry still needs a leaven of uninhibited young people at the top, just as it sometimes needs the considered and mature judgment of the aged. How else are they to be recruited, except by fathers giving their children a first-class ticket for the fast track to the top — as well as a fast-track to understanding how business works.

Who would have ever heard of Alexander the Great if he had not been the king of Macedonia's carefully prepared son, but had to get on the hard way, taking on many compromises and obligations in the process. By taking over at 20 after his father's assassination — no golden handshakes then — he was able to conquer most of the known world in his twenties. By the age at which Simon Wolfson has become the junior of five executive directors of Next, Alexander was about to turn back, exhausted from the Indian monsoons, his revolutionary life's work largely done.

The 1994 Education Act ushered in the age of meritocracy. Its children were schooled to rise gradually to the top. We were to advance by selection on the strength of

ability that was to be demonstrated by performance, regardless of birth or privilege. This was as good a formula as any. But even in its ideal form, which naturally bore only a limited likeness to reality, it was a formula for getting able people to the top, more than getting them there young. As industry eventually discovered, it did not breed much entrepreneurial skill either.

The enterprise culture, which succeeded meritocracy with a suitable gap after the next educational reform, is more flexible. If they are sufficiently determined, able, arrogant and daring, young people can parlay themselves rapidly to the higher reaches via self-promotion and the head-hunting system.

This transatlantic system is helping to open up business and turn creativity into action. But this school is no more the universal answer to good management than was the meritocracy. Too often, its successful graduates are most skillful at promoting themselves and filling their pockets, more devoted in getting on than to the organisations they aspire to lead. To many of them, the true business is themselves.

The more industry is tied to a rigid formula of recruitment, the worse our chances of success, whether it is devised by the political establishment, by City investors or by well-meaning regulatory codes. A bit of managerial risk-taking, including dynastic privilege, spiced the mixture — provided dad can recognise his mistakes.

Gas industry starts to feel the pressure

Consumer inertia is hampering market, says Christine Buckley

Competition in domestic gas supply, available to 500,000 households in the South West since early last year, will be extended to Dorset and the former county of Avon from Monday. Next month homes in Kent and Sussex will also be able to buy gas from a new generation of suppliers established to challenge a monopoly previously held by British Gas.

But liberalisation of the gas market has met a mixed response from domestic consumers, with just 18 per cent of households choosing an alternative supplier despite the promise of cost savings.

Gas companies and the Government must hope that competition will gain momentum. Customers have shown reluctance to switch from British Gas, even though rival suppliers offer discounts of up to 20 per cent, and despite the relentless criticism of British Gas's poor customer service record.

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, is not unhappy with progress although she hopes rival gas companies will enjoy greater success. Potential customers in the South West may have been deterred by the uncertain start to gas trials in the region. Problems with British Gas's final bills and adverse publicity about aggressive doorstep selling, prompting the in-



Clare Spottiswoode has refused to condemn doorstep selling despite conceding that the practice has impeded some development of competition

tervention of the Office of Fair Trading, bear some responsibility for the modest transfer levels, Ms Spottiswoode believes. Sweb, the local electricity company, was the target of much of the criticism.

She said: "Sweb has virtually stopped marketing now. We thought they would take away much more of the market than they did because they were the local electricity company."

The bad publicity has harmed not only Sweb but has made other companies more cautious about how they go about marketing."

In the event Calor Gas, a joint venture between Calor Gas and Texaco, has taken pole position in the South West.

Doorstep selling has flourished, mainly because consum-

ers simply do not understand what is happening. The need for greater consumer awareness has been consistently stressed by the Gas Consumers Council. Buying energy from a variety of suppliers is a new concept and many are confused about key issues, such as how the gas will come into their home and who bears responsibility for faults and safety. In the absence of a public education programme many customers turned to advice to the person representing a British Gas rival to sell them fuel.

In the South West Ofgas information leaflets took a free ride with a TransCo pamphlet. Now Ofgas is using leaflets in local free newspapers to explain how gas will be sold in

competition with British Gas. There will also be advertising on local radio. The Treasury is currently considering a request from Ofgas for additional funds for a broader nationwide public awareness programme.

So far Ofgas has refused to condemn doorstep selling despite conceding it has impeded some development of competition. Ms Spottiswoode said: "There have been rogues; if you look at some of the stories then there are clearly lies that have been told." Ofgas wants customers to get a return call from someone who is not a salesman after an initial sales call.

The success of Phase II of domestic gas liberalisation will in some part determine

the timeframe for the rest of the roll-out programme. That programme could start later this year although Ofgas will only promise that all 19 million gas consumers will be able to shop around by April 1998. By then the market in electricity is also supposed to have opened to competition, although there are growing doubts about the industry's ability to meet this deadline.

Ofgas consultants are working with TransCo, British Gas's pipelines business, and the main body of British Gas to determine the next areas for gas liberalisation and possible start dates.

London is not likely to be the next region to join the market although it would be a lucrative ground for gas companies.

the complaints from British Gas to its disarray over pricing and that, while competition is delayed, it preserves market share and therefore profits. "Once you remove the politics and take a cold-hearted look at what is really required, it is very little. They do need some more hardware but that isn't expensive. They certainly don't need to do lots of rewriting of the network code."

Ofgas also discounts fears that British Gas's problems with its national billing system will erupt into further chaos as competition spreads. "They have had serious problems but they were not in the competition area. British Gas has said numerous times that they put the system in for competition but while that is true they didn't have to put it in right now. They installed it in 1996 while they had the whole of 1997 before needing a national network."

Last year British Gas's £150 million computerised billing system was thrown into chaos — thousands of disconnection notices were sent to customers who had not yet received bills.

Europe is showing interest in this latest development in competitive gas, the regulator believes, after a series of international visitors to the watchdog's London offices. Continental governments, says Clare Spottiswoode, are coming under increasing pressure to emulate Britain in an effort to drive down prices.

It had been anticipated regional electricity companies would take a large share of gas sales while the industry still awaits the arrival of a big brand seller. Large retail groups, such as supermarkets and mail order firms, are interested in the energy supply market but could wait until both markets have been operational for some time.

£1 deal puts the 'Cray twins' back in spotlight

After two wretched years, Cray Electronics is trying to start afresh by changing its name to Anite Group. Yet the former stock market high-flyer has still to rid itself of the two men central to its past misfortunes.

Roger Holland, Cray's former chairman, and Jon Richards, who has survived as chief executive, were at the helm when the company issued a shock profits warning in April 1995 — months after they first learnt of mounting problems.

Two years on, the "Cray twins" remain at the heart of the data communications company. Tomorrow Anite's shareholders are set to approve the sale of Case Technology UK, an apparently disastrously loss-making manufacturing business to Nibley, a new company headed by Mr Holland. Even Alec Daly, who has taken over as chairman, regards Mr Holland's involvement as "un-desirable". One leading shareholder said: "The fact that Holland is there does not leave a particularly good smell."

Mr Richards has adapted to Anite's straitened circumstances — it announced half-year losses of £63.5 million last month — by taking an Aston Martin as his new company car. us100

The sale of Case Technology UK, along with that of Case Technology Denmark, are intended to leave Anite with a profitable software and network integration business and £17 million in the bank. The Denmark business has attracted a £44 million offer from Intel, the big American computer chip company, in spite of shrinking annual sales of about £15 million and £15 million of losses in the past 18 months. The prob-

lems at the UK business look even more severe. Plagued with ageing products and a poor record on product development, sales have collapsed to, perhaps, £20 million a year. Losses were £13.5 million last year, £12.5 million in the latest six months.

It looks hopeless, but Mr Holland is far from foolish. With Mr Richards, 15 years his junior, as his protege and close friend, Mr Holland has made an estimated £5 million — mostly

from Miles 33, a newspaper typesetting company, but also from Cray. The pair were part of the management team assembled by Sir Peter Michael to save Cray from its 1989 crisis.

Their reward was a controversial incentive scheme that paid out £27 million in shares, although only Sir Peter sold his stake before the company's fortunes crashed along with its shares.

With Case UK, Mr Holland and Mr Richards are said to have taken their eye off the ball during 1994. Documents revealed today by *The Times* show that Mr Richards was aware of serious problems at Cray Communications, the arm responsible for 80 per cent of group profits, by the beginning of December 1994. This was six weeks before Mr Holland announced upbeat interim results showing increased profits of £10.1 million — and nearly five months before the profits warning that wiped out

£175 million of the company's value in a single day.

In a private and confidential letter dated December 1, 1994, Mr Richards told Ray Figgott, chief executive of Cray Communications: "It now appears Cray Communications has reached crisis point. At a trading level, Cray Communications lost £1 million in the first half against a budgeted (sic) profit of £10 million. You currently have an overdraft in excess of £10 million, against a half-year cash target of an £8 million surplus. November was the worst ever month for Cray Communications and follows the first half where order input was consistently below budget."

Yet on January 11, 1995, Cray reported first-half profits from Communications of £7.8 million, along with rising sales and margins. Mr Holland said the group's investment in Cray Communications "will lead to further growth and increased profits". Mr Figgott had been sacked by this stage, though no mention was made of this.

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In a private and confidential letter dated December 1, 1

Limited liability inquiry

Senator Pierre Horsfall, president of Jersey's most powerful government body, the Policy and Resources Committee, and Colin Powell, chief adviser to the States of Jersey, are among witnesses called to give evidence before a public inquiry examining the way in which the island's controversial limited liability partnerships law was prepared. The hearings start on February 17.

Jersey's limited liability partnerships law – first of its kind in Europe – received the approval of the Privy Council in December and should come into force in late spring. Parliamentary debates have aired concern that the law had been "fast-tracked" through the island's legislative process.

Angerstein up

Angerstein Underwriting Trust said yesterday it now owns, advises or manages about £940 million of underwriting capacity at the Lloyd's of London insurance market, representing 9.1 per cent of the total market for the 1997 underwriting year. The interim dividend for the half year to November 31 is increased to 12p (11p). Net revenue rose to £1.94 million (£1.65 million).

Welsh aid

Wales is to receive £11.5 million from the European Regional Development Fund to establish industrial premises, support small businesses and develop community enterprises. Among the 71 projects to benefit are a technology centre in Cardiff Bay and economic regeneration and job creation programmes in Pembrokeshire.

Trifast buys

Trifast, the UK industrial fasteners group, has expanded its operations in Singapore with the £1.96 million acquisition of Formac Technologies, a manufacturer of stainless steel screws. In the 15 months to the end of December 1995 the business earned pre-tax profits of \$237,000 (about £104,000).



Eurocamp profits were flat as bookings fell 25 per cent for Robert Baddeley, finance director, left, and Richard Atkinson

Jacobs Holdings makes £34m agreed bid for Ropner

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JACOBS HOLDINGS, the shipping and property group headed by Michael Kingshott, has made a £33.7 million agreed cash and shares bid for Ropner. Jacobs already owns a near 10 per cent stake in Ropner.

The new offer is of three new Jacobs shares and 302.75p in cash for every four Ropner shares. There is a partial cash alternative worth 141.3p a share.

A placing and open offer of 11.04 million Jacobs shares at

84p each will partly fund the acquisition and provide extra working capital.

Mr Kingshott said that the companies' shipping and property operations had clear areas of overlap, while Ropner's engineering business was likely to need some investment and might be sold.

To buy DIFT Jacobs will pay £6.4 million in cash to Blue Circle Industries. It will also guarantee the repayment

of DIFT of a £9.6 million loan from the seller, £600,000 of which will be repaid immediately after completion. The remaining £9 million will be repaid within five years.

Jacobs is already the operator of DIFT's Thurns Europort and runs a ferry service to and from Vlissingen in The Netherlands through Dart Line.

Europort is undervalued at present, but Jacobs said that it

was in talks with potential customers. Earlier this week, Jacobs announced that Dart would launch a twice daily service from Dartford to Zeebrugge in Belgium. The service will be used mainly by trailer traffic and containers.

Jacobs said that trading in the last six months of 1996 was satisfactory in the transport and property divisions.

Its shipping division continued to underperform partly because one of its ferries on the Dartford to Vlissingen route was arrested and also because of competition from Eurolink, a ferry service operated by a Mersey Docks and Harbour subsidiary.

However, revenue from Dart Line has risen in the first few weeks of 1997 after the closure of Eurolink in December and the settlement of compensation with the previous charter of the arrested ship.

The acquisitions will leave Jacobs with £53 million of net assets and £40 million of debt.

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Offer acts to protect competition

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CONTINGENCY plans to prop up competition in household electricity should power companies fail to set up efficient computer networks have been drafted by Offer, the industry watchdog.

The move, revealed by Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, to the Trade and Industry Committee, comes amid concern that competition –

scheduled for April next year – will be delayed.

Instead of sophisticated cross trading between companies through interconnecting computer systems, paper bills will be substituted. These would not affect final customers but would function between electricity suppliers and the distribution companies. Distribution and at

present supply, is controlled by regional electricity companies.

Professor Littlechild said the contingency measures had been developed after companies said the plan to enable households to shop around for electricity would not work. A number of companies, privately and publicly, have challenged the way com-

petitors are being developed and the cost of setting up the system to enable 25 million households to switch suppliers.

Offer could not say how many customers a paper-trading system could support.

Professor Littlechild told the committee that the cost could be revised. At present he has calculated it at £20 million over five years.

The acquisitions will leave Jacobs with £53 million of net assets and £40 million of debt.

Tempus, page 26

ACCOUNTANCY

Tax threat for joint ventures

David Cruickshank calls for a rethink on a tax rule that may threaten commercial investment

LAST May's decision by the Court of Appeal in the case of *Steele v EVC International* will have a severe effect on the earnings of joint ventures, and swift action is required to prevent further damage.

Where two or more companies set up a joint venture they do not usually want to be in partnership. Instead, they form a company and own the shares between them. This is a consortium for tax purposes, so that when the company makes a loss, the profits can be relieved against the companies that own it.

Rather than was the position it was undermined by *Steele v EVC International*.

Although not directly concerned with consortium relief, the court held that a shareholder's agreement providing for the constitution and control of a jointly owned company caused the shareholders to be connected with one another. This would equally apply to consortiums where owners had agreed how to implement a policy for the company.

The background to this decision is that, for decades, an anti-avoidance provision has

been lurking in the tax legislation. This is to the effect that two or more parties who act together to secure or exercise control of the company are treated as being connected.

The case confirmed this principle and brought it into the open. One of the consequences is that if the owners of a consortium are connected because of this rule, consortium relief is denied.

This would catch most joint ventures because, typically, the owners will not be making a hands-off investment but setting up a commercial operation that they will want to keep within their control. To do this they need a mechanism for agreeing policy between themselves. This means they will be acting together to exercise control, so they will be connected.

Why might be asked, have any businesses set up joint ventures if there is this big problem? The answer is that, until recently, the anti-avoidance provision has been subject to a sort of truce. The Inland Revenue no doubt realised that it would potentially harm many commercial arrangements, so it tacitly disregarded it unless tax avoidance has been involved.



David Cruickshank wants the Revenue to lobby the Treasury

The court decision has prompted the Revenue to re-examine this truce. Concerned that consortium relief would be denied for joint ventures, my firm and others asked the Revenue to confirm that it would not apply the court's decision to these arrangements.

In its *Tax Bulletin* of December 1996, the Revenue replied that it would indeed apply the decision to consortiums. The Revenue said that, in most cases, where there are just two owning companies or there is a shareholder's agreement governing the policy of

the company, consortium relief would be barred.

But what should be done? Although the Revenue has some discretion as to how to operate tax law, it is perhaps unrealistic to expect the Revenue to ignore an anti-avoidance provision when a court has expressly determined that it does apply. What is missing from the *Tax Bulletin* statement, however, is any suggestion that the result is unfortunate and an attempt will be made to put it right.

Tax advisers are contacting their clients to see if they are caught by the ruling. If they are, it will prove very difficult to change their arrangements so that they fall outside of it. It is wrong, however, that commercial arrangements should be made to conform with tax law. Rather, anti-avoidance provisions should be targeted to catch avoidance without putting commercial arrangements in a straitjacket. What is needed is a change of law.

Fortunately, the timing for change is good because we are in the Finance Bill season. With strong lobbying it is to be hoped that the Government will be persuaded to table an amendment to the Bill to ensure that commercial joint ventures are not penalised by the decision. Perhaps the Revenue will join in the lobbying.

David Cruickshank is Head of London Tax at Deloitte & Touche.

Dame's date with the millennium

AT LAST the Dame has done it. The English ICA will have its first woman president at the helm as it sees in the millennium. At yesterday's council meeting it was announced that the fearsome Sheila Masters of KPMG had trounced Graham Ward of Price Waterhouse in the election for vice-president by 54 votes to 31.

But even before the vote was announced Dame Sheila's arrival in the same purple and

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

gold outfit that she wears in the KPMG annual report gave the game away. Apprehensive secretaries trembling at the promised Masters revolution were muttering some lines from *Byron* under their breath. "The Aspasia came down like a wolf on the fold, and his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold."

Novel approach

WITH auditors auditing auditors, anything could hap-

pen. This week saw the publication of the first set of auditor's accounts ever to be audited by another auditor. Neither of them fell asleep in the process. But both KPMG and Grant Thornton have had to be very careful to ensure such things as client confidentiality and not giving away each other's secrets. And in particular they had to draw up a code that outlaws any conflicts of interest over insolvencies. "After all," said

our informant, "we couldn't have clients and auditors suing each other over the work that they had done." If only everyone else stuck to such a novel approach.

Media offensive

IF THE English ICA's latest plans are put into action, we

can expect some grisly sights on our televisions are long. Buried deep in the "annual report of the chairman, communications" presented to the institute's council at its meeting yesterday was one proposal which should strike terror into the hearts of viewers and send listeners back to sleep at breakfast time. Talking of success in getting institute folk on to television and radio, the report says: "There are a number of opportunities coming up where we hope that persistence will pay off." Then comes the bombshell. "Our target is regular slots for an institute spokesperson on the *Today* programme and a panelist on *Question Time*." Don't say you haven't been warned.

Eurocamp held back by sterling

A DECLINE in the popularity of France as a camping destination held back profits at Eurocamp, the holiday company, which yesterday blamed the weakness of the pound in 1996 for its flat results last year. (Fraser Nelson writes.)

The company, which generates three quarters of its business from British campers in France, said bookings fell 25 per cent in the year to October 31.

Richard Atkinson, chief executive, said France suffered in 1995 as customers returned with memories of low purchasing power. He said the recovery of sterling should now restore France's reputation. Eurocamp is now spreading its locations more evenly across Italy and central Europe.

Overall, pre-tax profits were flat at £9.27 million (£9.25 million). A final dividend of 7.25p, due to be paid on April 18, maintains the total at £1.5 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Australia Bank aims to raise \$862m in US

AUSTRALIA BANK, Australia's biggest bank, is raising up to \$862.5 million via a public offering in America as part of its plans to reorganise its capital base. The bank, which owns Yorkshire Bank, Clydesdale Bank, Northern Bank and Northern Irish Bank, said the fund raising would provide flexibility to manage its capital, improve access to international capital markets and broaden its investor base.

The issue, which exceeds the \$750 million target previously indicated by the bank, will be carried out in conjunction with its UK and Jersey Capital Securities subsidiaries and will be matched by an A\$1 billion (about £500 million) share buyback later this year. NAB is seeking to expand through acquisition both in Britain and America and has indicated that it would be prepared to spend up to A\$2 billion on the right acquisition. Last year it acquired Michigan National for A\$2.1 billion.

MS warns on profits

MS INTERNATIONAL, the specialist engineering company, yesterday gave warning of difficult trading in the second half, exacerbated by the strength of the pound against other European currencies, and that profits were unlikely to meet expectations. The company also announced the sale of MSI Preconomy, which designs and manufactures steel moulds for the plastic and die-casting industries, for £1.5 million. MSI shares fell 4p to 20p.

Scott bid terms move

THE future of Scott Pickford, the UK geophysical consultancy, is in the balance again after Core Laboratories of the US said it would drop the conditions attached to its 59p a share cash offer. Core said it would extend the offer to all shares, including those to be issued under a share exchange agreed by Scott Pickford with Aerodata, an Australian geoscience consultancy that has offered 59p a share for the company. Aerodata is likely to decide whether to raise its bid tomorrow.

Nightfreight shares fall

SHARES of Nightfreight fell 15p to 59p yesterday after the parcels delivery and contract distribution company said it was holding the final dividend unchanged at 2.25p a share in spite of lifting pre-tax profits to £5.01 million from £4.62 million in the year to November 30. The company said an 11.5 per cent rise in volumes for parcels in the first two months of the current year was below budget due to poor weather and the recent downturn in manufacturing output.

Millennium sell-off

MILLENNIUM CHEMICALS, the American chemicals business demerged from Hanson, has raised about £190 million from the sale of a number of offshore companies that primarily hold sterling-denominated deposits. The proceeds, which reflect the approximate book value of the companies, will help to reduce existing bank debt. The disposal does not reduce the company's net debt, but reduces the ratio of gross debt to total capitalisation from 65 per cent to 62 per cent.

Gardiner advances

THE Gardiner Group, the wholesale distributor of electronic security systems, lifted pre-tax profits to £4.37 million from £3.52 million in the year to October 31, but said trading conditions in the UK remained difficult and competitive, while activities in continental Europe were affected by the strong pound. Earnings rose 2.62p a share from 2p. The total dividend is increased to 0.95p a share from 0.85p with a final of 0.65p.

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Guidelines needed for remarkable change

IT IS a good thing that accountancy firms do not have outside shareholders and a share price to sustain. To judge by the second year of "firms" accounts from KPMG, they would be hard put to fire up their followers. Last year, when the firm produced its first, and unaudited, report and accounts, they carried the legend "leadership in client service" on the front. This year, in what seems to be another effort at shaking out some random alphabet soup from management textbooks, they carry the words "working together, delivering value".

It may be that the sound of gentle snoring is what the firm wants to stimulate. This is the report is not to shareholders at all. This is the first time that an accountancy firm has ever produced a fully audited report and accounts. And the proud team from Grant Thornton address their report "to the partners of KPMG UK". But the partners know roughly, if not in detail, what to expect beforehand. It makes for a certain emptiness of purpose.

The other users of the report are clients, press, and partners' wives, husbands and mothers. And not many of any of those groups are going to be that interested in the sort of what we did for the Halifax Building Society case studies the report goes in for. The ageing of mainstream corporate reports rather misses the point.

Companies put that sort of stuff in as flattery for analysts and investors. Accountancy firms are not talking to either. The press would probably rather have some details of the current vintage from the vineyard of Colin Sharman, senior partner. And clients would probably want rather more on what accountants are up to and why they are useful.

Many finance directors are known to have somewhat sceptical views on this. The report would be a good place to air such topics.

The paperwork is good and solid. A poor first quarter responded to Mr Sharman putting a rocker up a number of departments, and the final figures show a 6 per cent increase in gross fees; but a 12 per cent increase in earnings. The average partner's earnings were £20,600, beating Ernst & Young, whose recent figures showed partners on an average of £20,000.

The other advantage of reporting now is that you can slip in the figures for the first quarter of the new year. And those are much more dramatic. Admittedly they are being contrasted with what the firm saw as a poor first quarter last year, but an overall increase in earnings

income of 15 per cent sounds more than satisfactory with both management consultancy and transaction services growing at more than 30 per cent.

It means boom time for accountants again and, therefore, acute shortages of good staff. No wonder Mike Rake, KPMG's chief operating officer, was talking of an average of 75 people a week joining the London office alone.

But in the end, the real interest in these ground-breaking accounts is the fact that they are the first to be audited by an outside firm. Grant Thornton, the largest of the second-tier firms, did the work, and David Spence, who will be the Scots ICA president next year, headed the team.</

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Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
BANKS								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
ELECTRICITY								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
ENGINEERING								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
CHEMICALS								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
DISTRIBUTORS								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
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Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
CHEMICALS								

Symbol	High	Low	Company	Price	52	+	%	PE
DISTRIBUTORS								

Equities make further progress

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

YIELD: %

PE: Price/Earnings Ratio

Symbol: Stock Exchange code

High: 52-week high

Low: 52-week low

Price: Middle price

52: 52-week average

+

%: % change from 52-week average

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+

David Honour introduces a special report on business continuity: making sure your company survives a catastrophe

You can be the master of potential disaster

When the staff of a City finance house go home for the evening, its computers are set to work, downloading the day's data to a remote vault for safety. Should the office be damaged by bomb, fire or flood, the employees will simply decamp to a back-up office, or "hot site", probably a building on the fringe of the City that is proving difficult to let for any other purpose.

There it will be business as usual. The finance house will be reaping the reward for paying perhaps £5,000 a year for each module — desk, PC, telephone line and financial service (Reuters or Teletype) — that it needs.

Such companies are usually aware of the need to keep their business going without a break. Small and medium-sized businesses may not have given it much thought. But it is in their interests to do so.

There are perhaps 40 British companies offering business continuity consultancy and services. The bigger players include Granada Business Continuity, Comdisco, CAP-RS, Team Recovery (a division of ICM), Guardian, SafetyNet, BT Commure, Wang and Adam Associates. All have seen rapid sales growth over the past two years.

In its infancy, business continuity planning was called disaster recovery. But the word "disaster" conjures images of fire, flood and terrorism. In real life, these are

rare. To a business, less dramatic but more frequent problems are computer and telecommunications failures, theft, employee sabotage and straightforward human resource problems such as death and illness.

The first step in the planning process is to assess the risks faced by the company. How exposed is it? Which risks threaten critical processes?

The next step is to decide what measures can be put in place to prevent risks becoming reality, and to minimise commercial damage if a disaster does occur.

At this stage the elements of the plan can be compiled into a document — the business continuity plan — which must be tested. This is best done by staging a mock disaster, an event which will be made more useful if it is not known to be a simulation. In this way the plan can be tested for weaknesses.

Once the plan is finalised, the temptation is to allow it to gather dust, but plans must be regularly reviewed. Possible redundancy of parts of the plan must also be considered.

Much of a business continuity plan will probably relate to a company's IT and telecommunications networks. As the complexities of these networks increase, so do the risks faced. Recent developments include new threats posed by the Internet, expansion, the Y2K (Year 2000 threat) and EMU.

The recent massive growth of the



Computer-based dealing rooms are vulnerable, but clever managers have back-up systems in place in alternative locations to guarantee continuity

Internet has created many IT security problems for online companies. Protecting internal networks from unauthorised access and ensuring confidentiality of electronic transactions are a challenge. Authorisation, encryption, firewalls and Internet tunnels are all solutions which need to be considered. Internet-propagated computer viruses are another threat.

Many companies have only recently become aware of the problems that two-digit computer dates could cause as the millennium approaches. Some pundits forecast

a minor hiccup; others are predicting apocalypse. As in most things, the truth lies somewhere in the middle. Most of the larger business continuity and disaster recovery providers offer Y2K testing facilities, where systems can be duplicated and run prematurely through the year 2000 date. Unfortunately it is easier, quicker and much less costly to find problem code than to rewrite it.

European Monetary Union is another potential challenge to business continuity planners. To prepare for EMU, banks and financial institutions will have to redevelop

parts of their IT software structure. Evidence presented to the House of Lords by the British Banking Association and the Association for Payment Clearing Services put the implementation costs for British banks at £914 million at 1994 prices.

Retailers will also face difficulties as banking systems would need to cope with a 'dual currency' in the case of a phased implementation or alternatively an overnight change.

Many consultants offer business continuity advice help. Extreme caution is required when selecting one. Customer references should be sought and always followed up.

The only recognised qualification is provided by the Business Continuity Institute, incorporated in 1994, members of which have been scrutinised through a formal application and interview procedure. Members use the initials MBCI or FBCI (Member/Fellow of the Business Continuity Institute).

John Marsh, the institute's general manager, is a former naval commander who has seen his share of disasters at sea. "Any small business with IT that doesn't download every night is running into danger," he says.

"At higher levels, Mr Marsh

concedes, it can be expensive. Some consultants charge up to £800 a day to write a business plan, which might cost from £10,000. "But then it's very expensive for a big company to tie up perhaps 50 computers in an unused office. It's much cheaper to pay a specialist company to do it."

"Insurance is only good for so much. Of the 250 companies in the World Trade Centre, New York, at the time of the bomb, only about 100 are still going."

• The author is Editor, Business Continuity magazine. The Business Continuity Institute 0181 874 1931

Accidental damage could mean the last post for your datacomms

Sending and receiving data is the lifeblood of many businesses.

What sort of mess would your own organisation be in if you were unable to do so?

It's vital to ensure that you're never forced back to more primitive means of sending data, such as couriers or even the postal system.

And don't forget, the most common accidents suffered by datacomms equipment are caused not by disasters such as fires or explosions, but by water damage — often due to nothing more drastic than a dripping pipe.

Just talk to BT and ask for your business to be covered by Data Commure. It's a new service which will deliver and install temporary replacement equipment such as multiplexers or routers to your existing site or another location, keeping you in business while you get everything back to normal (which could take a matter of weeks or even months).

The good news is that Data Commure's prices are really cost-effective. So for more details why not call the number below?

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Will your firm be ready for action?

Susan Gray
gathers tips on
how to form a
recovery plan
and insure
against a crisis

have more at risk from the loss of a key individual", Tony Colla, managing director of Sedgwick Risk Benefits, says. An objective consultant should be able to highlight risks, and the client can see if its insurance policy is appropriate.

NatWest Business Insurance Service says that small businesses need to heighten their awareness of business interruption insurance across the board. "One of the most common types of cover overlooked is insurance for the financial 'dent' arising from either a natural disaster, an accident or an act of terrorism," a spokesman says.

Andy Dickson, marketing manager of IBM Business Recovery Services, says: "Business recovery is no longer about providing desks and chairs and PCs, but about 'talking' to business people and protecting the whole operation."

Mr. Dickson says that a good consultant gets under the skin of the client business, not just looking at the visible hardware, but making the whole thing work".

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Just 48 hours to business recovery

Tony Dawe reports on how severe bomb damage failed to shut down Bishopsgate and Manchester's centre

The scars remain deep from the two biggest bombs to hit mainland Britain since the Second World War. Some buildings are still boarded and unprepared nearly four years after the IRA struck in Bishopsgate, London, and in Manchester damaged stores and offices are still being demolished after last June's bomb in the Arndale Centre.

Yet businesses brought to a shattering halt in the two cities were able to start up again within 48 hours because of their links with disaster recovery specialists. For dozens of companies, the terrorist devices proved the importance of planning for the worst-case scenario and provided lessons on how to minimise the impact of future disasters.

Longridge House, British Engine's insurance headquarters, was the office block to suffer most severely in Manchester. Staff-making telephone sales that Saturday morning sustained the worst injuries in the city, and damage to the building, standing feet from where the bomb exploded, was matched only by the damage to its computer systems. British Engine was, however, able to call on the services of Comdisco, an international disaster recovery provider. Comdisco operates a computer mainframe recovery centre at Isleworth in West

London and emergency offices at Warrington in Lancashire.

Angus Jordan, a member of British Engine's crisis management team, said: "Our first concern was for those members of staff injured in the blast. Secondly, we wanted to minimise any further stress and disruption by relocating people as quickly as possible."

Julia Graham, an executive with Royal Insurance, British Engine's parent company, added: "We found that moving to another office en masse was an excellent morale booster for staff because it allowed them to remain with colleagues in a time of crisis."

British Engine's disaster plan allowed for a 48-hour period to relocate key staff before any mainframe activity was required, so the Comdisco experts knew, when they were called in on the Sunday morning following the bomb, that they had until the Tuesday to prepare the Isleworth mainframe and the communications links to Warrington.

British Engine has about 350 home-based engineers who access the mainframe remotely to download their work schedules. Pre-planning and good communication ensured that everyone was informed when the mainframe system would be available again. Though there was a break in work schedules, disruption was minimal and



Offices wrecked, computer systems damaged: after the Bishopsgate bombing in 1993

the restart was performed on the Tuesday. British Engine was able to install a new mainframe in another of its offices by early July and move staff out of Warrington by early August.

A smaller business to suffer from the Manchester bomb

was the Curry House in Back Turner Street. The restaurant was undamaged but had no customers because of safety cordons in the area.

Mohammed Iqbal, the owner, knew nothing of disaster recovery plans but had taken out a shop-protector business

insurance policy with NatWest, which covers even loss of profits caused by terrorist activities. Mr Iqbal said: "You could not believe how relieved I was when I received a call from NatWest saying I could claim for loss of business."

After the bomb at Bishopsgate in the City, the Banco di Sicilia was one of many finance houses facing shutdown. The explosion tore through its offices and dealing room on the 13th floor of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank building, which took the brunt of the blast, dislodging computers and shattering dealing screens. Branch managers had, however, drawn up a comprehensive emergency plan that included access to replica dealing rooms set up by Safetynet, specialists in contingency planning and recovery services, and Reuters.

The temporary dealing system was fixed to one of Safetynet's back-up sites in West London, so the bank's emergency box containing back-up computer tapes, stationery and useful phone numbers was brought from a secure site outside the City.

By Monday morning, both

the information technology

back-up system and the temporary dealing room were operating as normal. Other staff were settled in temporary offices, and the bank was able to offer a full range of services.

After helping six companies

through the Bishopsgate

bomb aftermath, Safetynet drew up a list of 20 key lessons, including the need for off-site storage of comprehensive back-up data, an accessible emergency control centre and contractual agreements with key suppliers to maintain support in an emergency. They concluded that many contingency plans were untested, insufficiently detailed and out of date.

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■ FILM 1

Child and geese find fulfilment in the lyrical family movie, *Fly Away Home*



■ FILM 2

Barbed wit and cruel deeds in the Versailles court: *Ridicule* is no sleepy costume drama



■ FILM 3

Jeanne Moreau only partly redeems Ismail Merchant's ponderous *The Proprietor*



■ FILM 4

Classic Forties newspaper comedy, crackling with quickfire wit, returns with *His Girl Friday*

Take flight to where it's warmer

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees Anna Paquin and a cute gaggle of Canada geese *Fly Away Home*

The recipe is simple. You take one lonely child of divorced, pre-occupied or otherwise dysfunctional parents. You introduce the child to an extra-terrestrial, or a fetching creature of land, air or sea. You cook over a low heat for 90 or so minutes. Result: the child achieves emotional fulfilment and the film-makers achieve a family movie.

The outcome is not always nourishing. For every *E.T.* there are family entertainments so unimaginative that audiences might cry in despair had the films not put them to sleep. But *Fly Away Home* is not of that ilk. It stars a flock of Canada geese, who grab the attention whether romping blithely over the breakfast table or soaring through the air in majestic formation.

The film also stars Anna Paquin, the piquant New Zealander, now 14, who won an Oscar for her role in *The Piano*. Her eyes are her best expressive weapon, and *Fly Away Home* gives her much to stare at. There is the eccentric behaviour of her estranged father, Jeff Daniels, who scoops her up in the opening scene from the trauma of her mother's death, and gives her a new start in rural Canada. And there are the geese, first seen as eggs left abandoned after an incursion by developers' bulldozers, and incubated in a chest of drawers.

For a while, Carroll Ballard's film is content to watch the child's maternal instincts waken as the fluffy goslings stumble around, act cute (but never too cute), and fall into a savory bowl. Then some plot machinery is wheeled on. The local wildlife officer insists on clipping the geese's wings. Daniels and Paquin want them to follow nature's call and migrate south. But, orphaned at birth, they cannot fly, until a motorised hang-glider shaped like a goose and piloted by Paquin shows them the way.

Once the cast become airborne, the plot fades and spectacle takes over. Ballard, director of *The Black Stallion* and *Never Cry Wolf*, loves a lyrical image, and his gifted cameraman, Caleb Deschanel, effortlessly wrests them from the geese's flight over lake, hill and dale.

Not every sequence looks genuine: when the geese steer a path through Baltimore skyscrapers shrouded in fog one suspects computer jiggery-poker. But Paquin's attachment to the birds is real enough, and the film's strong emotional core, its innocence and sense of optimism, easily offset the two main drawbacks: insufficient drama and an over-generous length.

From geese to frocks, wigs, beauty spots, breeches, brocade, early morning duels and fluttering lace handkerchiefs: the usual roll call of the costume drama. Patrice Leconte's *Ridicule* adds another

and rarer ingredient: wit.

Characters need this to survive in Louis XVI's court, where a well-timed remark can make or break a man's reputation. So the language flows, all in French with excellent subtitles, as Fanny Ardant, Jean Rochefort and lesser-known but excellent players make merry with jokes, barbs and games of deceit.

At first sight costumed flummery might not seem to be Leconte's *tasse de thé*. But the director of *Monsieur Hiré* and *The Hairdresser's Husband* appreciates the cruelty of aristocratic behaviour, and the sad concern for appearances. Right from the start, when a Chevalier urinates on an infirm Comte, we know this is no museum of film. The period dressing never appears finicky or overwhelming: characters live through their words, not their clothes.

Our representative in the world of Versailles is stage actor Charles Berling, cast as Ponceulon de Malavoy, a provincial squire who comes to enliven the King's support for a water drainage plan. Gazing distastefully with an outsider's eyes, he soon needs Rochefort's advice and protection. Avoid puns, he is told. Never laugh with your mouth open, and never laugh at your own jokes. So the outsider moves in, displaying a ready tongue, and an eye for ladies such as Ardant (mature and conniving) and Judith Godreche (pure and buxom).

Rémi Waterhouse's script relishes the characters' loquacity, but never gets bogged down in words. There is always space to appreciate some absurd visual detail: a wincing face, a caressing foot under a table, or the sight of the King (puff pastry adorned with a blue sash) peeping through a painting at the morning's supplicants. Of the cast, only Godreche appears out of synch: the rest toss their

words, their cruel and pathetic deeds, with zest and precision.

White Man's Burden was the first film John Travolta made after *Pulp Fiction* reactivated his career in 1994, although no one has been in too much of a hurry to bring it to British attention. He sports ginger hair. He's an ordinary, ill-educated Joe, and works in a factory, at least until a stray glance at the boss's naked wife leads to his dismissal. Misfortunes then shower upon him: unemployment, harassment, eviction. Travolta's dim soul is in kidnap his boss and extort \$3,000. This brings

more trouble. Yawning already, I see. But there's a trick to this plot. In this America, circumstances have been turned upside down. The blacks have the money and the power; the whites are the underdogs. Travolta's kidnap victim is Harry Belafonte, who lives like a king among manicured lawns; Travolta's place is with the white trash, living in a squalor that reminds us that Desmond Nakano, the writer and director, also wrote the movie of *Last Exit to Brooklyn*.

The novel initially provokes and amuses.

But Nakano, directing for the first time, paints his reverse picture so broadly that its resonance fades as the plot plods on. Both Travolta and Belafonte give solid performances: not solid enough though, to realise the film's potential.

The Proprietor begins with the spectacle of Jeanne Moreau smartly attired in the colours of the French flag. Red scarf. White coat. Blue dress. She deserves no less. The film she stars in is far less appropriate; for all her authority and grace, she cannot give life to a fey and awkward script, or impart agility to her director Ismail Merchant, better



A strong emotional core, innocence and sense of optimism — plus Anna Paquin and assorted goslings — make *Fly Away Home* something to cherish

known and better skilled as the production half of Merchant Ivory.

Moreau plays a famous French writer, whose best-known book *Je m'appelle France*, became a new-wave cinema classic. Long in America, she returns to her homeland to reclaim the apartment she lived in as a child.

Along the way, memories surface of the French Occupation: tributes are launched against Hollywood crassness, and Moreau apart, an ill-assorted English and American cast acts in ugly capital letters. Cultural displacement has long been a Merchant Ivory theme, but practice in this case has not made perfect. The film tries to be suave, but is condemned to be gauche, dull, perplexed bad.

Life returns with *His Girl Friday*, the sparkly Howard Hawks comedy of 1940, based on Hecht and MacArthur's stage classic about journalists' shenanigans, *The Front Page*. Does this have more words per minute than any other film? It seems so, at least, and, unlike the players in modern pastiches such as *The Huducker Pray*, the cast luxuriates in the furious pace.

Cary Grant takes the role of the ruthless managing editor, eager to exploit a murder story; in a gender switch from the original play, Rosalind Russell is the star reporter who needs to be wooed back to the fold. There is no time in the stampede of jokes for the milk of human kindness, least of all from Rosalind Russell, a performer always wrapped in ice. But the film's ruthlessness is bracing, especially when so many recent comedies chase themselves silly getting nowhere.

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The Prop

■ CHOICE 1



Frank Dunlop gives *Carmen* the spectacular treatment
VENUE: Opens tonight at the Albert Hall

■ CHOICE 2



Ralph Fiennes stars in David Hare's version of Chekhov's *Ivanov*
VENUE: Now in preview at the Almeida Theatre

■ NEW VIDEOS



Aliens repelled, thrills galore: *Independence Day*, the box-office hit of 1996, comes to the small screen

LONDON

CAPIFF WEST End run for Tamara Hammerling's first play, set in South Africa, as a white teenager searches out her black roots and hopefully mitigate the ensuing causticity. Mary Peake directs. East End, 10pm. *Albert Hall, 10pm*

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE *La Bohème* (1996). *Alceste*, West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5009). *Previews* begin tonight, 7pm. *Opens* Feb 10, 7pm

CAPIFF EAST Kenneth Cranham, Karl Johnson, Windsor Davies in the cast of 15 for Peter Gill's new play, set on a Welsh housing estate. *South Bank*, SE1 (0171-223 2222). *Previews* begin tonight, 7pm. *Opens* Feb 12, 7pm. *In rep*

CARMEN Barry Wordsworth conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra in director Frank Dunlop's hammy production of *Carmen*. *Cast* of love, passion and political alternating cast will share the 12 performances, with Yvonne Fortune and Kateri Turner in the title role. *West End*, 7pm. *Opens* Feb 12, 7pm. *Then* 7.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm. *Then* Feb 16, 7pm

IVANOV Ralph Fiennes heads a spiffy cast that includes Helen Mirren, Bill Paterson, Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's production of

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mackay

CHEKHOV (1996). *Women in Black*, Susan Hill's gothic novel of revenge from beyond the grave. *Cast* (01803 328233). *Openings* 7.30pm. *Then* Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm; *matins*, Sun (Feb 13, 20, 27, 2pm)

ELSEWHERE *Gloucester*. Andrea Hart plays the title role in Shostakovich's *Mrs. Joffe*, with Paul Atkinson and Nedda Sharp. Robert David Mutter directs. *Cast* (01285 810222). *Openings* 7.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sun, 2pm. *Then* Feb 11, 7pm. *In rep*

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THEATRE GUIDE

JEREMY KLOPPING Assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Seats not available

■ Seats at all prices

OBERS Shakespearian Avenue, W1 (0171-944 5040). *Matins*, 8pm; *matins*, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

PLUNDER Grafton Lane, Fleet Street, EC4 (0171-925 4214). *Previews* begin tonight, 7.30pm. *Then* Fri-Sat, 7.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm.

SHAKUNTALA Intriguing tale of the marriage of a king and a nymph, set in the 19th century. *Cast* (0171-925 4214). *Directed* by Peter Cadek, author of *Fair Ladies at a Game of Poem*. *Cardi* (0171-925 4214). *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm.

THAT WHICH YOU DO (1996) Smooth, bold adventures of a one-hr pop group of the 1960s, written and directed by Tom Stoppard. *Cast* (0171-925 4214). *Directed* by Tom Tykwer. *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE FRIGHTENERS (1996) *Palace* (0171-925 4214). *Palace* (0171-925 4214). *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE PREACHER'S WIFE (U) Antiquated Christians whine in modern packaging, with Dennis Washington, Whitney Houston and Courtney Vance.

effects of trying to conceal truth. Chris Horner directs the first production since the 1954 opening of National Theatre's *Almeida* in Petre's Square (0181-236 7110). *Previews* from tonight; 7.30pm. *Openings* Feb 10, 7.30pm. *Then* Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm.

NORTHAMPTON Stephen Makrilia's adaptation of *The Women in Black*, Susan Hill's gothic novel of revenge from beyond the grave. *Cast* (01803 328233). *Openings* 7.30pm. *Then* Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm; *matins*, Sun (Feb 13, 20, 27, 2pm)

LONDON GALLERIES

ANGELA FLOWER Lucy Jones-Terry (0171-925 3323). *Present* (0171-925 1411). *Chalk Farm*: *Present* contemporary work by Sarah Keene, Helen Lynch, and others. *Cast* (0171-267 5000). *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sun (Feb 13, 20, 27, 2pm)

FLIPPER CIC, PG, 1996

REMEMBER Flipper, dolphin star of films and television in the 1960s? He has been brought back to frolic in a thunderously unimaginative family film, featuring Elijah Wood as a surly teenager who umbends through exposure to nature's marvels in the islands off Key West. But the only human to make an impact is Paul Hogan as the bohemian uncle whose idea of washing dishes is to swish them around in the shower with his foot. Available to

Lay down your cash, Earthlings



On the launch pad: alien spacecrafts prepare to invade your video store in the sci-fi epic, *Independence Day*

■ INDEPENDENCE DAY

FOXVIDEO, 12, 1996

ALIENS in enormous spaceships are threatening to destroy our world. But American pluck saves the day in this outsize popcorn feast that combines the attributes of sci-fi movie, war movie, monster movie, disaster movie and video game. Director Roland Emmerich maintains a brisk pace and does not neglect humour, though the movie would have been better if he had not mixed up so many genres. With Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum and Will Smith. Available both as a rental release and to buy.

■ LONG RUNNERS

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ALPHABETIC) Criterion (0171-925 1212). *Matins*, Sat, 2.30pm. *Then* Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. *Matins*, Sun, 2.30pm.

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL Fox/Video, U, 1951

NEATLY timed to coincide with the video release of *Independence Day*, this exciting and intelligent sci-fi classic arrives on the shelves in a new digital transfer. Robert Wise's cool and

precise direction lends a helpful, realistic air to the story of Klaatu, the extra-terrestrial diplomat trying to stop war. It is strange to think that Klaatu was first envisaged as a part for Spencer Tracy: Michael Rennie's slightly chilly demeanour is perfect for the role. Bernard Herrmann's wonderfully eerie music score is bonus.

the cost of his stolen vehicle. But the more the hero gets into trouble, the more oblique the director becomes as he forges motivation and character development for the pursuit of startling images, mingling beauty and horror. Not a film with a human face.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Ockeghem's 500th; Branagh meets Mendelssohn; a mighty mezzo

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ JOHANNES OCCKEGHEM

Missa De plus en plus

Créteil Scholars/Phillips

Gimel 454 935-2 2xLP £12.99

WHILE feasting on this year's cornucopia of anniversary Schubert and Brahms: spare an ear for Johannes Ockeghem, the Flemish court composer and one of the most original musical minds of the 15th century, who died 500 years ago.

Two notable recordings hail the day. The Clerks' Group's disconcerting, warmly human performance of the *Missa De plus en plus* is coupled with motets and chansons, and is the latest in their fine series of Ockeghem recordings (ASV CD GAU 153). And, hot off the press, the Tallis Scholars' grander, slightly cooler performance of the same Mass is twinned, valuably, with the smaller-scale *Missa Au travail suis*. Each Mass is pre-

pared by a lively three-part rendering of the secular love-song on which it is based.

The *Missa De plus en plus* glows with a darker, winey vocal palette, its full choral sections perfectly blended, its duets and trios freewheeling and virtuosic. *Au travail suis* is more fragile, transparent in its brief full sections which set the duets into austere relief. Both Masses show off Ockeghem's skill in composing a mean melody and both recordings, in their different ways, pay him fitting tribute.

■ ORCHESTRA

Barry Millington

■ MENDELSSOHN

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Italian Symphony

Branagh/Berlin Philharmonic

Orchestra/Abdo

Sony SK 6226 2xLP £15.49

THERE are many recordings of Mendelssohn's incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but it is good to be reminded how that

music was intended to work. Here, selected extracts are narrated by Kenneth Branagh. He resourcefully, and amusingly, presents himself in the characters of a stern, falsetto Oberon, and an impish, Irish Puck.

The score is brilliantly performed by Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic and the two sides, musical and dramatic (recorded six months apart in different countries), are seamlessly spliced. Sylvia McNair and Angelika Kirchschlager appear briefly as faeries, and there is a fine contribution from the women of the Ernst Sinfonie Chorus.

The *Italian Symphony* is an all-too-predictable coupling, but if we have to have it, it is good to have it bursting with such Mediterranean vitality.

Abdo's ear for finer detail is

when the music demands,

especially in Rossini. Listen to Kasarova singing Isabella's patriotic *Pensa alla patria* from *L'italiana in Algeri* and it makes some other ladies look like weaklings. Romeo's first act aria from Bellini's *I Capuleti*, recently staged in Paris with Kasarova, has the same panache. And if triumphs are the order of the day, she matches them blast for blast in *Or la tromba* from Handel's *Rinaldo*.

She is less convincing in Mozart's gender roles. Neither Zerlina nor Cherubino seems made for her, despite a clever thinning down of the voice. Her breathing is occasionally intrusive and RCA made an impressive opera debut on disc at the end of last year in the title role of Rossini's *Tancredi* and is now

reduced with a solo recital.

Kasarova looks the one of the mezzo quartet most likely to inherit the Marilyn Horne mantle. She has the same thunderous lower register and the same readiness to throw all inhibition to the winds

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The Bulgarian Vessela

Kasarova is the latest to join the line led by Bartoli, Jennifer Larmore and Susan Graham. She made an impressive opera debut on disc at the end of last year in the title role of Rossini's *Tancredi* and is now

reduced with a solo recital.

Kasarova looks the one of the mezzo quartet most likely to inherit the Marilyn Horne mantle. She has the same

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■ MUSIC 1

In a Manchester recital the young mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli confirms her dazzling promise



■ MUSIC 2

Leonard Slatkin goes to the heart of Elgar in an eloquent performance with the Philharmonia



■ TOMORROW
Will Blur's extraordinary new album horrify their fans? Read David Sinclair's verdict

Posturing gypsy passion

DANCE: Paco Peña's flamenco show is spectacular, says Nadine Meisner, but where is the spontaneity?

Paco Peña is no sudden revelation, having performed in Britain for almost 30 years and founded his Flamenco Dance Company in 1970. He is no dancer either, being a guitarist, and is keen to raise foreign audiences' awareness of the singing in flamenco — the *cante* — traditionally considered the fundamental inspirational component.

Marta Heredia, known as La Picadera, is one of the singers in Peña's latest show at the Peacock, *Arte y Pasión*, revealing a voice which even by flamenco's standards has an exceptionally hoarse earthiness. Implicit tears seem to fall from every word; but although the printed programme includes translations, we all know about trying to read in the dark.

So, as always with Hispanically-challenged audiences, it is the dance which focuses attention; and in this *Arte y Pasión* is modest in both its art and passion, reflecting perhaps the low-key stage persona of Peña himself. The young, rangy Ángel Muñoz is the flashiest participant, entering like a version of the Kirov Ballet's Farouk, Ruzimov, dark, curly streaming aquiline profile ravishing. His extended solos grant him star-treatment and display a strikingly versatile talent, able to plunge into furious machine-gun footbeats as well as to decelerate into a balletic lyricism, with the simple sweep of an arm or a series of graceful slow-motion poses.

Castanets, an ingredient of other Spanish dance forms, have only relatively recently been absorbed into flamenco. That is all part of flamenco's evolution, as is its transition to the international proscenium stage. How do you adapt to this setting? Peña's solution is to abandon all illusion of spontaneity and to opt for a highly orchestrated presentation, with carefully choreographed groupings, passages of unison, and lighting that places silhouettes against slabs of glowing colour.

Is that why the *pasión* part of the title appears so muted? Strajacketed into decoratively ordered sequences, flamenco's extreme emotional language often seems reduced to empty postures.



Statuesque dancing — and some mean castanet-playing — from Charo Espino (with Paco Peña behind)

There has been a blurring of news and current affairs in broadcasting over the years. Each was once, at least at the BBC, a jealously guarded empire operating behind Chinese walls (if not concrete ones). The merging of the two disciplines was sensible as well as economic, but there are still moments when the distinction is important and when there is more to be learnt from current affairs than from the news.

Take Tuesday night. The big domestic news story, certainly by *The World Tonight* at 10pm, was John Major swinging his handbag at the European Union and its social chapter. The spin-doctors rushed into every studio to tell us that this was the Prime Minister protecting our economy, stitching our precious pockets against the street urchins of the minimum wage. In a word, it was electioneering.

Anyone tuned in to Radio 4 at 7.20 the same night heard about the real Euro scandal. *File on 4*, one of the most informative programmes in the schedules, investigated the fraud in the transfer of goods between EU countries — and, between the EU and outside countries.

Of course we all know that Brussels wastes money. But a comparison of *File on 4* and Mr Major on the news amply demonstrated what every Eurosceptic knows: that there is an ocean of clear blue water between the rhetoric of politi-

Has the BBC got news for you?

cians and the reality encountered, for example, British lorry drivers.

One of the latter interviewed by *File on 4*, thought that he was carrying goods to Albania only to be met in Greece by a carload of men wearing black suits and dark glasses. The driver was obliged to follow the car through the back streets of Athens where the load was put into a warehouse. Meanwhile guards on the Greek-Albanian border were bribed to stamp documents showing that the lorry had in fact crossed the border, thus entitling a trading company to vast amounts in reclaimed duty.

Perhaps this was a small crime, a one-off? Sadly not. There are 18 million commercial road traffic movements in the EU each year and modest estimates suggest that even if only 1 per cent of them are fraudulent, the European taxpayers are forking out £10 billion.

billion a year to criminals. Of course the devil is in the detail. National Customs and Excise organisations are fighting a losing battle against mountains of paperwork and are often obliged to use systems so daft they would be mocked if employed by a candlestick maker. There are 50,000 customs posts in Europe. Each one has a unique stamp for authenticating documents, meaning that the Dover Customs, say, needs to have copies of 50,000 stamps in order to check the authenticity of documents. The stamps are so basic that criminals run up copies for a pastime.

A committee of the European Parliament is working to improve the system and all are agreed that computerisation would seriously reduce fraud. So why isn't the system computerised? Because member governments are refusing to pay for it. They probably think that spending a few million to save £10 billion wouldn't sound sufficiently gung-ho on the news.

PETER BARNARD

SCOTTISH THEATRE: Neil Cooper on the excellent *Passing Places*

Uneasy riders on the storm

Road movies can be many things, from the bantering Hope-Crosby vehicles to rides of existential angst. The nearest thing to it on stage has been Sam Shepard's excursions into the Wild West and dark heart of the American landscape. At Edinburgh's Traverse, Stephen Greenhorn's new play, *Passing Places*, takes all this and more on board, rooting things squarely in a Scottish culture obsessed with Americana but still in search of its own identity.

All this is relayed via Alex and Brian, a pair of smalltown boys going nowhere who get out the only way they know how — doing a runner with a prized surfboard owned by Binks, Alex's psychopathic boss. The only transport on offer is a worn-out Lada, a rusty symbol of once-nationed nations falling apart. The boys head north for Thurso, where the surf is up all year round.

Along the way they pick up wild child Mirren, who leads them the long way round a voyage of discovery, taking in the sights, sounds, but more

Warmth of the south

■ Cecilia Bartoli
Manchester

from the keyboard by György Fischer — she was also infinitely touching as the betrayed lover in the cantata *Cessate, omai cessate* and, though the strings sounded a little threadbare, one marvelled at the varied invention of Vivaldi's writing.

Bartoli, making her Manchester debut, mixed some of her familiar showpieces with fresh repertory. The first half was devoted to Vivaldi, music to which her compact, lyric instrument is ideally suited. The short motet *In furore iustissimae irae* displayed her strengths in quick succession — brilliant coloratura, a relish of words in recitative, and her ability to spin long, limpid lines. She tore into the final "alleluia" with fervour, pointing up the way in which this motet anticipates Mozart's famous *Exultate Jubilate*.

Accompanied by the ensemble Defici — four strings led

is ripe for a Bartoli-led revival.

More exhilarating, though, were the mostly high-spirited French and Italian songs in the second half. It is hard to imagine Pauline Viardot's disarmingly simple pieces being invested with deeper meaning than here: her *Havannaise* had beguiling, sensuous warmth; *Hal lulli* voluptuous vulnerability. Bartoli summoned up a mini-Carmen in the laughing lines of Delibes' *Les Filles de Cadix*, to suave and supportive accompaniment from Fischer.

Voice and personality filled the hall in her final Rossini group. The bursting excitement of *La regata veneziana*, the long floated lines of *Riedi al soglio* from Zelma, and the risk-taking of the *Canzona Espagnola* added up to a display of Rossinian singing at its full-throated, Italianate best.

JOHN ALLISON



Kenneth Bryans and Paul Hickey in *Passing Places*

importantly the ideas of as-sorted fellow travellers they meet en route, including a kooky geologist and her crazy sculptor boyfriend, who transforms the once-drap Lada into the archetypal candy-coloured streamline dream machine. And all the while, Binks is in hot pursuit. In a series of 50 short, snapshot-like scenes, Green-

yang in this way, a symbolic driver and guide each finding their own path to enlightenment.

Director John Tiffany has pulled off a quite remarkable feat in bringing this road movie to the stage to life at all. What might at first look like being ambitiously unwieldy is basically left to run on its own fuel. Tiffany is helped by a superlative cast, with Paul Hickey and Colin McCredie proving that opposites attract as Alex and Brian, while Kenneth Bryans is on menacing form as Binks. Stuart Bowman and Ian Macrae put out a scatter-shot array of cartoon cameos.

If there is a problem with the piece, it's perhaps a little too dependent at times on one-dimensional cultural stereotypes mouthing quasi-mystical platitudes. But then, maybe that is the point: we are all cartoons now.

Passing Places is another in a growing body of Scottish plays seeking out answers to a spiritual lack, not with dirty realism, but with grace and good humour worth making the trip to see.

LONDON CONCERTS

Steady as he goes

BRAHMS Discovery Day at the Barbican ended with the second programme of the London Symphony Orchestra's series devoted to the composer's centenary. It made one impatient for all the remaining concerts with such warm and responsive playing the LSO may be a "natural" Brahms orchestra, but Colin Davis's exalted music-making here was about more than sheer beauty of sound.

His Brahms, we are learning, is slow. Even the Academic Festival Overture was stately, its subdued passages sounding almost elegiac. But no matter how dark and sonorous Davis made it, the inner textures came across with muscular clarity, and the final *Gaudeamus igitur* burst out joyfully.

Two Goethe settings provided the substance of the first half. The Alto Rhapsody was sung with eloquent poise by Sara Mingardo, a genuine contralto rather than lowish mezzo, in vibrant, burnished tone. The voice is focused and full-bodied all the way to the top, and Mingardo used it to produce long, seamless lines in a performance true to Brahms's almost secular spirituality. The later *Gesang der*

Parzen, for six-part chorus and orchestra, is taken from one of Goethe's Classical texts and evokes a tragic grandeur; but even excellent singing from the London Symphony Chorus could not counter the impression of this being a heavy, dense score not entirely undeserving of its neglect.

LSO/Davis
Barbican

Davis's spacious approach to the Second Piano Concerto was matched by the thoughtful pianism of Gerhard Oppitz, who was solid in the Kempff mould and took a similarly long-breathed view of the score. In a performance based on real dialogue between piano and orchestra, the first movement sounded more than ever like giant chamber music. Oppitz was not shy of bravura outbursts, but his reluctance to indulge in empty virtuosity meant that for once this concern did not sound like one of the big wrist-breakers of the repertory.

JOHN ALLISON

Spirit of delight

VENICE, Tintagel, a quotation from Shelley and a dedication to the memory of a King are all verbal embellishments on the score of Elgar's Second Symphony, and each affords some clue to its sometimes secretive character. Leonard Slatkin, the American who becomes the Philharmonia Orchestra's principal guest conductor next season, has long put British listeners in his debt for his perceptive understanding of English music, and so it was again here.

Without diminishing the public "face" of the music, with its typically stately sorrow, Slatkin took the Shelley quotation for his own motto: "Rarely, rarely comest thou, Spirit of Delight", and infused that spirit into the orchestra's performance. His scrupulous attention to Elgar's markings, not least the frequent instructions to accelerate or pull back (sometimes both within a single bar), meant that the music's ebb and flow acquired an eloquent beauty.

The elegiac slow movement, so easily made to sound pompous by reference to the death of Edward VII, here became as intensely personal and poignant as the finale was much brusque as brisk.

NOEL GOODWIN

Philharmonia/
Slatkin

Festival Hall

delsohn's Violin Concerto given by the Hamburg-born Christian Tetzlaff. With the orchestral strings reduced on a foundation of four double-basses the soloist had no difficulty staying dominant.

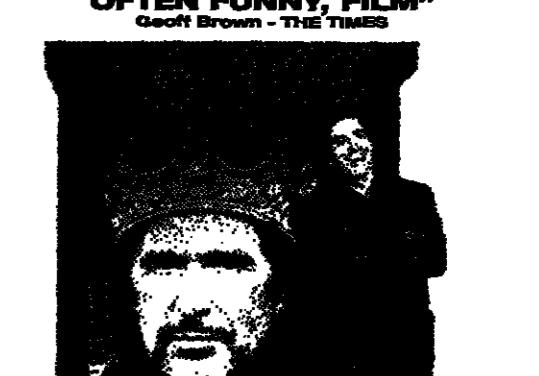
But that exposed his wily tone at the start, and his solo cadenza later sounded squeezed-out like toothpaste. He occasionally spun a fine thread of romantic feeling, but the finale was as much brusque as brisk.

Alec BALDWIN Aidan PACINO QUINN
Winona RYDER SPACEY

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Alexander Walker - EVENING STANDARD

"SINUOUSLY CINEMATIC AND
DRAMATICALLY PULSATING...
BEGUILINGLY QUIRKY"
Gillian Curtis - THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

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UNDENIABLE FORCE AND
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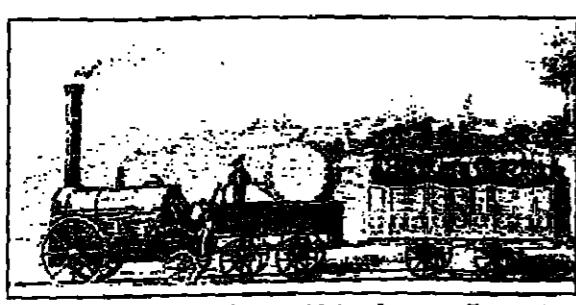
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Benson investment: Liverpool-Manchester railway, 1831

A very snug sort of sock

Howard Davies
KLEINWORT BENSON
The History of Two Families in Banking
By Jehanne Wake
OUP, £25
ISBN 0 19 828299 0

My bookshelves are host to a good number of corporate histories. They are kept out of harm's way on unreachable shelves, or concealed in cupboards rarely opened: to preserve them carefully, you understand, for generations yet unborn.

So the arrival of a weighty tome entitled *Kleinwort Benson* does not exactly set the pulse racing. Though Mrs Nicola Horlick has done her best to add a touch of gaiety to the merchant-banking scene, one does not expect the same excitement from an account of the stern German Kleinworts or the upright Quaker Bensons. But this is too pessimistic a prognosis. Jehanne Wake has done both more — and less — than the conventional corporate historian.

Hers is, in a sense, three books in one. The first is a family history of the Kleinworts, from 1613 to the present; the second is a family history of the Bensons, from 13th-century Lakeland on; the third is a rather sketchy account of the background to the merger in 1960 and the firm's acquisition by the Dresdner Bank Group in 1995.

The first two "sub-plots" provide a fascinating comparison between the merchant classes of Britain and Germany. The third is a perfunctory effort, and the reader will learn little new about the dynamic which drove two of the City's front-rank institutions together and then into the arms of a German universal bank.

David Kynaston's definitive history of the City describes the Kleinworts as "the classic case" of non-integration into the culture of the London market. And the Kleinwort who did most to build the firm, Alexander,

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

made his first serious money in Havana in the 1840s. Havana was, shall we say, not the most tightly regulated trading market and "the Kleinwort bank was founded on the proceeds of gunrunning, shirt and currency smuggling, and cigars."

These exotic trades provided him with the capital base to establish a partnership in London in 1855.

The Bensons had reached London three years earlier. The family began trading cotton cloth from Kendal through Liverpool; only when railways began to look a better bet than cotton did they decide to move south.

The families' perspectives were quite different: "For the Kleinwort banking continued to form the main interests of their lives, together with the belief that the family firm always came first. For the Bensons, however, banking continued to be but the means to an end."

It would be wrong to draw a simplistic lesson from this comparison. Perhaps the best conclusion is that the City's strength has been, and remains, that both Kleinworts and Bensons can flourish, whether in common cotton, or in licentious linen.

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

Why another Odyssey?

To translate the 12,000 lines of Homer's *Odyssey* into English is a massive task which has been undertaken many times. In the roll-call of Robert Fagles' predecessors stand Shakespeare's contemporary George Chapman, whose bold couplets so inspired Keats; the Victorian polymath Samuel Butler, who thought that Homer was a woman from Sicily; the mad poetic genius William Cowper; Thomas Hobbes in his eccentric old age and, most celebrated of them all, Alexander Pope, whose best-selling translation of *The Iliad* made him rich enough to take on *The Odyssey* with a hired team of assistants.

All these men wrote for readers of Classical learning and leisure. Yet in our own hurried century, too, while ancient literature has faced its greatest threat since the fall of Rome, there have come distinguished attempts upon *The Odyssey* from Ezra Pound, T. E. Lawrence and Robert Fitzgerald. The plain prose of E. V. Rieu's Penguin Classic has been hardly less profitable in the bookshops than was Pope's poetry: Allen Mandelbaum's easy-listening lines are now enlivened in a taped performance by Derek Jacobi; and there is still the fashionable American, Richmond Lattimore, whose Longfellow-like verse was as favoured in the Seventies as, at least for this student, it was discouraging.

Now we have the work of Fagles, another American poet and professor at Princeton. At the end of this book, when Odysseus is safely back home, when his rivals have been speared, the disloyal maids hanged, and when life on the island of Ithaca has finally returned to the peace of before the Trojan War, Fagles provides a postscript in which he thanks his friends for never asking the question "Why another *Odyssey*?" By this stage, after more than 400 fast and forceful pages, the reader is presumably intended to applaud the friends' good manners. With a few small cavils, this reader does applaud. The "why another *Odyssey*" question still, however, needs an answer.

One of the hardest tasks for readers and translators of

Homer has always been to get on top of the work as a whole. *The Odyssey* is famous for its parts, for the hero's escape from the Cyclops by twisting a hot stake into its single eye ("and the hot blast singed his brow and eyelids round the core and the broiling eyeball burst"), for the faithfulness of Penelope at her loom, the Sirens' "ravishing voices" for the death of Odysseus's old dog, Argos, happy at last that his master has come home. One of the finest scenes, the journey to the world of the dead, was developed by Virgil and Dante into one of the cornerstones of European culture.

The totality of the poem has been correspondingly neglected. Not even students of the Classics have had to read it all. For them, too, the rewards lay in the parts, in the answers to the questions of who composed *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* and at what time, whether there was one Homer or two or 2,000, whether the composers ever learnt to write or whether they were always singers simply remembering sections and chunks of lines. The inconsistencies of language and morality, burial practice and building materials had to be laid bare; too often there was little of the poem left.

Fagles writes like a man for whom the whole is vastly more than the part. He has been helped by a similar slow trend among scholars. I should hesitate to say that there is now a consensus on these Homeric problems. Imagine, however, that in the years between the great Mycenaean kingdoms, whose palaces and primitive skills in written Greek were destroyed around 1200 BC, and the rebirth of Greek literacy with a new, more practical alphabet around 800 BC, there were groups of illiterate wandering bards who told travellers' tales in easily remembered rhythmic hexameter lines. Imagine that Mediterranean audiences could pick and mix from the bardic repertory and that the singer-poets would keep a stock of prepared metrical phrases to fit various characters in various situations; and that over time certain characters and stories would prove more successful,

more requested and hence more durable.

Imagine then that close to 725 BC, some 500 years after the fall of Troy, someone who came to be called Homer wrote down his best version of the most popular bardic poems; that this text became rapidly the canonical version; that, although he smoothed out some of the competing versions of the war and home-ward travels, he felt no need to impress future scholars with his perfectionism.

Homer's art was in the giant sweep of the stories, the conflicts of changing characters in changing times, the perils of peace and war on earth, among the dead and with the gods on Mount Olympus. His dawns were often "rosy-fingered" and his seas "wine-dark" — too often for critics who misunderstood the needs of oral poets to finish a line. But his art lay in his manipulation of the heritage he had chosen: this art Fagles aims to place before us almost three millennia later.

The opening of the poem is not one of the sections normally most favoured. It describes how, in the long absence of Odysseus, his house is being wrecked by claimants for his wife and bed. His son Telemachus, a petulant adolescent, can do nothing to stop the rot except make visits to his father's more successful war-hero friends. Fagles gives these scenes a light, almost laddish tone. Epic characters do not commonly say "you'd do me in", see rumours coming "from the blue" or talk of fortunes changing "with a vengeance". Fagles has a sure grasp of this youthful suburban air, much stronger than that of Mandelbaum or Lattimore.

Once we meet Odysseus himself for the first time, caught in the tender trap of the "queeny nymph" Calypso, the atmosphere changes. The solid world has gone, the mysterious tales begin and some readers may miss their traditional English renderings of centuries past. In the garden of the Phaeacian King, Alcinous, Fagles finds neither the magic nor the real desirability of a Utopian orchard where "those fruits, nor winter's cold nor summer's heat fear ever, fall not, wither not but hang perennial, while unceasing zephyr breathes", in Cowper's 1791 version.

Similarly, in the more famous set-piece scene where the crippled Hephaestus fixes a trap for his wife Aphrodite and



A welcome return: Lawrence Macdonald's sculpture of Odysseus greeted by Argos

Fagles is at his finest in the long final section between Odysseus's return to Ithaca and the peace accord with the families of the slaughtered suitors. He keeps taut, the scenes of deception and recognition as the hero tests his family and friends, driving his lines at a surging pace. His poetic momentum does more than merely move the great battle scene in the hall to its dramatic close: it keeps the reader always on top of the action with a vantage point to see the subtlety of the actors.

In a well-rendered *Odyssey* nothing is quite what it seems. Modern writers owe it much. For cumulative plotting and complex motivation Homer sets an awesome standard for all time. I always feel a tiny choke in my throat when in the opening few lines the performing poet calls on the Muse to speak again — "for us too". For generation after generation, that Muse has spoken to so many. Fagles translates the phrase well as "Daughter of Zeus, start from where you will — sing for our time too". She does and so does he.

W e see how Penelope, despite her later reputation, is not a simple symbol of wifely fidelity. She has managed her own interests by keeping the suitors in their long and destructive uncertainty: she has given everyone grounds to hope and her son good reason to be frustrated. She also has intuitions of Odysseus's disguised presence that would not disgrace the heroine of a novel.

The glory-seeking warrior ethos of Achilles' *Iliad* is commonly contrasted with

The importance of being Jewish

Erica Wagner

OP. NON CIT.
By Alan Isler
Cape, £12.99
ISBN 0 224 04386 2



long resident in the United States and recently returned to these shores, has an expatriate's (or an expatriate's) interest in the dilemma of the outsider. He has confronted the issue before, both in his first novel, *The Prince of West End Avenue* (whose protagonist was a German Jew exiled during both the First and Second World Wars) and his second, *Kraven Images*, whose hero's career of deception gives him an alternate identity.

His latest book takes side-long glances at "works not cited" to examine the predicament — if such it is — of the Jew in gentile society. Here is a familiar Jew, a merchant in Venice: an easily-distracted Romantic poet and a weary resigned Oscar Wilde. To some extent this format, which has the flavour of a creative-writing exercise ("Imagine the thoughts of the Man from Portlock") is in danger of

making the book a game of spot-the-allusion: Gladstone meets Wilde aboard ship and tells him of his own unpromising beginnings, and then those of another orphan — "He had been left and then found atop a Hebrew bible in a rather capacious handbag in the cloakroom of Victoria Station".

This is distracting. Isler is an able, nimble writer who can slip this stuff in easily, just as he can work up a love duet for a modern musical about the Dreyfus Affair (*Springtime for Hitler*, anyone?); "If you were the only Jew in the

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Peter Stothard on the ongoing English love of Sirens and Cyclops

THE ODYSSEY
By Homer
Translated by Robert Fagles
Viking, £25
ISBN 0 670 21624

MARY EVANS

In the

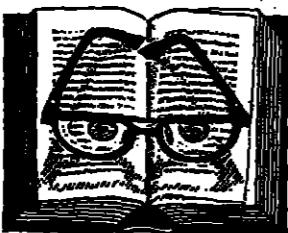
Just to furnish a room

Until April 27, an exhibition of Folio Society books can be seen at the British Library, under the title "Beautiful Books". The Society and the Library have also jointly published Paul W. Nash's bibliography *Folio 50* (£50), with skew-whiff lettering on the front board.

The Folio Society has published around a thousand titles, yet it has never quite got things right. Instead of books it produces garish ornaments. They are, sadly, naif (OED: "unfashionable, unpolished, or vulgar; unselfconsciously lacking style, socially inept; also, worthless, huffy, dud").

Folio's founder, Charles Ede, was inspired by Golden Cockerell and Nonesuch Press books, and set out to produce a "poor man's fine edition". From him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. If the poor man had collected Folio books, he would now be poorer still. Most titles are now between £20 and £40, and like cars they can almost be guaranteed to lose value as soon as they leave the showroom. The second-hand trade doesn't fancy Folios. An auction at Bonhams next week has 20 lots together with an estimate of just £50-£70. The Folio edition of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* is priced at £84.50. A dealer would be generous to give you £25 for it. My copy of the first edition, from a market stall, cost a recoupable £5.

But the true objection to the Folio Society is that it is for people who know they should read but don't. Scarcely any of these unhandy volumes feel like the proper form in which to enjoy the authors. Whether it be a simple Penguin or an



BIBLIOMANE

Everyman, or an old copy that someone has handled before — almost anything is more comfortable. For all the boasts about how well it crafts them, the Folio Society doesn't quite know what a book should look like only what a Folio book looks like. And despite being a major patron of wood-engravers, it has no idea how to print their often exquisite blocks with any delicacy.

Alongside the Folio exhibition, and with Folio's support, is another display of self-regard: "designer" bookbindings. With rare exceptions (Brian Robinson, Geert van Dael), these are of uniform hideousness. The unconventional and unfunctional is mandatory. There is no designing going on here, just ingrowing. Even the "set book" is Bernard C. Middleton's *Recollections: My Life in Bookbinding*. Incidentally, is anyone else invited to showcase commercial work at the British Library every year? This bunch have at least got one thing right.

It's a shame when a skill is lost because the gullible are led by the plausible, and told to be "experimental" or "subversive". It has happened with pancy bookbinding, and I fear that calligraphy is going the same way, after hearing a Letter Exchange lecture last year by Denis Brown, who used to be an artist with the rub but is now a deconstructionist. Finding the pen insufficiently mighty, he has taken up other weapons, cutting and cudgeling velum to represent menstruating vaginas and calling a protest at the ways Roman Catholics treat women.

Now we know. J.R.R. Tolkien was the greatest author of the century (and Folio's most popular pixel). So although the memory of having *The Hobbit* read to me at school still makes me feel unwell, a wordless 12th impression fetched £782 at Bloomsbury Book Auctions recently — being signed by the author. Thank you, but I'd rather have the riveting volume lovingly (or fictitiously?) catalogued by Charibury Oh! Books: A. M. Samuel. *The Herring: Its Effect on the History of Britain* (Murray, 1918, 198pp). £18.

Time to find out which books readers most hate. Nominations please.

JIM MCCUE

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Allan Levy finds that an analysis of the implications of Jamie Bulger's death raises many legal and social issues

Drawn again to a senseless death that will not fade away

AS IF

By Blake Morrison
Granada Books, £14.99
ISBN 1862070232

were devastated. He slowly recognised that the trial process would consider the where and when and the how and by whom the killing took place, but not what made two ten-year-old boys kill an innocent child. He felt as if something important had happened at the trial that still has not been faced or explained.

Searching for solutions, Blake Morrison considers how the murdered child's mother must feel and is driven back on his own experience of nearly losing a child. He follows the route the children took on the fateful day, and tries to imagine the feelings and reactions of the three children. He ruminates on the restriction on the expert psychiatric evidence and the teachers' evidence at the trial in the attempt to determine whether the boys knew the difference between right and wrong at the time of the killing.

Observing that adults find it hard enough to act on their knowledge of right and wrong, he wonders whether children can act with a clear moral sense. He



November 24, 1993: the verdict on the Bulger case delivered by Mr Justice Morland

ponders on the influence of parents and the absence of parents and the extent, if any, to which they should attract blame. He considers the possible influence on children of violence, in videos and in the home, and the limit of their understanding of the possible consequences of violence. He weighs the possible sexual aspects of the case. He comes to the conclusion that in the search for understanding in such a case we

must, to an extent, look within our own lives.

Blake Morrison examines the legal system that dealt with the case. The trial raises many pressing and controversial issues. Should ten-year-olds be subject to the full panoply of an English criminal trial in an adult Crown Court held in public? The minimum age of criminal responsibility is in fact ten whereas in most other European countries it is between 13 and 16. Are ten-year-olds capable of understanding the adversarial process and giving instructions to their lawyers? What is the right way to deal with young children who kill? Should we be following a civil welfare approach which recognises the need to detain children when appropriate?

The Bulger case has given rise to strong emotions, not least in some parts of the media. What is desperately needed is a rational debate about a legal system which cries out for reform. The process will not gain from being at the mercy of narrow, seemingly political interests. We need to draw on the experience of other systems and recognise that a degree of complacency has resulted in both children and adults being ill-served when caught up in the criminal courts.

Blake Morrison has contributed greatly to this debate and his thought-provoking book should be read by all those who have a serious interest in the vital process of reform. If some good is to come out of this horrific case some further dispassionate, apolitical consideration needs to be given urgently to the many disturbing questions raised by the death of Jamie Bulger.

Allan Levy, QC, is a specialist in child law.

A tenuous hold on the colonies

Felipe Fernández-Armesto risks his health for history's sake

Historians' output has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished. Much of it is rubbish. Vulgarisations block bookshelves. Academic fat dogs bibliographies and threatens the vital organs of learning with hypertrophy. A strict regimen might save us otherwise patron and taxpayers, revolted by the useless corpulence, will be right to impose a starvation diet.

We need writers who take pride and reviewers who take prisoners. Editors and publishers' readers must make uncompromising demands. Research assessment committees should start deducting points for bad work: at present, there is more pressure to write than to write worthily. Academics without genuine vocation get away with glaring ignorance, feeble scholarship, shallow thinking, slipshod writing. In a climate of indecence and self-interest, those with laurels to rest on and stipends to draw on are almost indemnified against criticism. If they are in positions of power or patronage, they can rely on sycophancy from colleagues and students.

We all know that academic journals publish plagiarism and gobbledegook without detecting it. It is more disturbing when a book like Marc Ferro's *Colonization* is deemed worthy of translation produced in a delusively cheap paperback, and endorsed by dons who ought to know better. Ignorant readers are lucky: they will only be misled. The knowledgeable may risk apoplexy.

The alchemy of error produces strange transmulations. Warren Hastings becomes a "Scottish military pioneer", Gordon of Khartoum also cast as a Scot, is said to have "played an important role" 60 years before his birth. Those who thought Lord Macartney went to China in 1793 will be surprised to learn that Great Britain sent its first important



Setting a time and place: British Ambassador Lord Macartney encounters the Chinese Emperor Chien Lung in 1793; taken from an anonymous illustration, dated 1806

COLONIZATION
A Global History
By Marc Ferro
Translated by
K. D. Pritchard
Routledge, £16.99
ISBN 0 415 14000 0

ambassador, Mac Cartway, to Peking (1797). In Professor Ferro's madcap chronology, a defeat can be "avenged" before it happens.

Such ignorance might be pardonable in a work with other merits. Here, however, lapses of logic, errors of interpretation, deficiencies of judgment and passages of literal nonsense are almost as rife as the factual mistakes. In its very conception, the work is finally flawed. Ferro starts off by confessing his confusion over the difference between colonisation and imperialism.

This confusion, never resolved, is easily spread to the reader.

In consequence, there is almost nothing in the book about the subject proclaimed in the title. We never know where colonists came from or where they went or in what numbers or how they adapted the environment. We are not told what crops or what trades (or except in the 20th century) what commerce sustained them. Their lives, their dwellings, their settlements, their art, their morale, their religions — whatever might bring the book to life — are omitted.

Instead, we are given a series of apparently arbitrarily selected examples of relations between incomers and natives and between colony and me-

tropolis. Almost half the book is taken up by narratives of decolonisation; all are conventional to the point of tedium, except for a curious excursion on the Maoist terror-queue of Peru, Sendero Luminoso, which even the author seems to regard as irrelevant. Promise flashes briefly when treatment of the cinema of colonialism is announced. The writer is known as an expert on this subject. But the reels seem to have got twisted and the picture show called off.

The subtitle's claim that this is a "global history" is laughable. There are some perfunctory, poorly informed passages on Japanese imperi-

alism; and Ferro, genuinely interested in Russia, is right to treat the Soviet Union as an empire. Commendably he has managed to fit in a couple of pages on Egyptian imperialism. For the rest, however, the round-up is of the usual suspects: the white empires founded from Western Europe and North America, and post-colonial exploitation by their successors.

In the Post-Modern world where facts transmute and values vanish, it is impossible

to stop books like this from being written; but by condemning them we can help to make publishers more cautious and protect a profession in danger of disgrace. *Colonization* would appear to be not required for advancement or esteem and that it is not even necessary to think clearly or write well.

Felipe Fernández-Armesto's books include *Millennium: A History of Our Last Thousand Years* (Bantam, £14.99).

In the thick of the madding crowd

Claire Messud

TALES OF BURNING LOVE
By Louise Erdrich
Flamingo, £8.99
ISBN 0 00 656991 5

A REGULAR GUY
By Mona Simpson
Flamingo, £15.99
ISBN 0 571 19079 0

Meanwhile, Candice Panta-

mounty, an efficient dentist and wife number three, has taken on — and fallen in love with — the woman who is Jack's fourth wife, Marlis, and his infant son.

On New Year's Eve, Jack is apparently burnt to a crisp in a handy fire at his faltering property development, and his four wives gather after the funeral to discuss the disposal of his remains. Stranded in a car, in a blizzard, they recount to each other their "Jack" stories — a sort of "Jack's Wives' Club". Jack, meanwhile, has made a canny escape, as has Dor's first husband Gerry, who has survived a plane crash while being transferred from one prison to another. As these

rollicking adventures pile up without any apparent irony, it remains unclear where the novel's focus lies: the book is neither a rounded portrait of Jack, nor a full exploration of his wives.

NARRATIVE exigencies over-

ride any natural character development. Louise Erdrich is a fine writer, and reveals her gifts for gracious and delicate prose; but in its over-plotted frenzy, *Tales of Burning Love* seems more suited for video than for the page.

There is nothing preposterous about Mona Simpson's *A Regular Guy*, or almost nothing: an early scene in which ten-year-old Jane Owens drives all night from her mother to her father, angus unlikely events, but Jane is soon reunited with her mother, installed in a bungalow not far from her father, Tom, and embarked upon an only mildly eccentric California childhood.

Tom Owens is the "regular guy" of the title — a character reportedly based on Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple Computers and Mona Simpson's long-lost biological brother. A millionaire before

the age of 30 and a corporate cast-off not long thereafter, a vegetarian hippie with odd notions about education and vague political ambitions, Tom Owens is, in many ways, far from regular. His entourage, however — his girlfriend Olivia, his wheelchair-bound scientist buddy Noah, Jane and her mother Mary — is more peculiar than he, not least because they all hang out together and spend such a lot of time puzzling over the nature of his soul.

The scope of Simpson's novel is ambitious and intriguing. She traces the odd web of

relationships surrounding her protagonist, and if too much happens it is not because planes pop out of the sky and houses burn down, but because the book follows a lot of people over a number of years, and because these people lack proportion. If the guy at the core were less elusive, this would not matter; but Owens remains shadowy, and even uninteresting, as does Jane, the novel's other central character. Noah, the scientist, is, on the other hand, tremendously vivid, the book's most engaging figure as he frets about scientific failure and sexual inadequacy, we are swept, delightfully, along. But the novel is not his, or not sufficiently. Indeed, Simpson seems uncertain of how to shape the narrative, as if she had not asked the vital questions: "what story is it?" and "what is at stake?"

Flaubert wanted to write a plotless novel because purity of prose and the truth of human nature were at the heart of his work. In some combination, they are at the heart of all the best fiction. These two novels remind us that sometimes, alas, the goings-on just get in the way.

Louise Erdrich: *Jack stories*

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BOXING

McCall lets title glory concentrate the mind

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

OLIVER McCALL had energy to burn when he arrived in Las Vegas yesterday to complete some unfinished business with Lennox Lewis. George Benton, his trainer, implored McCall to take a breather, wind down and get reacclimated to the pace and glitz of the fastest growing city in the United States. But McCall asked for more.

"I didn't want Oliver to go to the gym," Benton said. "He had to take a drug test, had that on his mind. The hard work has been done, but he wanted to release some of his fire."

"He's knocked out Lewis once, that will be on Lewis's mind and that must give Oliver all the confidence in the world. We are down to what's in the mind and we are confident of winning."

McCall, who is in his third bout of drug rehabilitation, was tested by the Nevada State Athletic Commission and will go through the same mandatory procedure after the contest for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight championship at the Hilton Centre tomorrow night. The former champion took the WBC crown off Lewis with one powerful right hand at the Wembley Arena in September 1994. In order to stabilise the most turbulent period in his life, McCall needs to win back the title.

The American had one successful title defence against Larry Holmes, the veteran, before losing the crown to Frank Bruno on an unforgettable night for British boxing at Wembley Stadium.

Victories over the undemanding opposition of Olek Maskae and James Stanton hoisted McCall back to the No 2 contender's position and in place to challenge for the title once it was relinquished by Mike Tyson.

"I think about the other guy setting out to beat me up," McCall said. "I think about winning, I'm not going to lose. I don't want to get hurt. It's not a scared feeling. I try to

send a mental message to my opponent: You ain't gonna hurt me. You'll put me fear in me. I'm coming at you with all my power and force, full force." Lewis must have received that message in our first fight.

"I've knocked him out once and I'm going to knock him out again. I want to prove my previous win over Lewis wasn't a fluke. Tell Lennox Lewis he's going to get whipped."

"I'm now in the shape I was when I knocked out Lewis the first time. I'm like Clark Kent. I've put on my Superman cape again. I'm going to have that belt back. I've got God in my corner. Oliver is a warrior, a real warrior with God in my corner. Lewis can have all the best trainers. They can tell him how to fight, but they can't put the fight in him."

McCall said that he had his first encounter with drugs rehabilitation before the Bruno bout and added: "It failed, I went about it incorrectly. I was going to the clinic as an out-patient, when I should have signed on full-time. The drugs and alcohol outside overpowered me. I wasn't able to sustain myself. I was consumed in the battle. This time, I've controlled myself."

□ Robert McCracken, the unbeaten Commonwealth middleweight champion from Birmingham, must have another scan on his back before being given the green light to return to the ring. McCracken is recovering from surgery in December, when he had fluid drained from his spine and a hole in a disc at the top of his back repaired.

McCracken would have been unable to box again without the operation and was told that a punch in the wrong place could have paralysed him.

He has his sights set on boxing again at the end of April and said: "I am feeling a lot better. It was hurting me until a week ago, but it is now easing off and hopefully it has been a success."

"I want to help to try to make it more of an even match," Irwin said. "We are focusing this weekend on widening their technical skills. They have five weeks to go before the match and in the



Guy Pinesent, left, and Jim Cartwright, of the Cambridge team, go through an intense sparring session

Students seek a new punch-line

John Goodbody finds Cambridge determined to end Oxford's dominance in the boxing ring

first four of those weeks they can push themselves."

Cambridge are already doing plenty of physical work, running most mornings plus four gym sessions a week. Dave Freeland, the captain, who is taking a PhD in magnetic multi-layers in physics, admitted: "Our coaches are quite good slave-drivers."

With the demise of boxing in schools, it is extremely rare for any undergraduate to have even been inside the ring before going up to university.

Bob Stratton, who, together with Graham Greenaway, aids Peter Wright in coaching at Cambridge, said: "We do have a captive audience. The students are fired up by the fact that they want a blue on their CV. So we get about fifty lads in the gym at the start of the year. We lose about thirty in a few weeks. We can then work with those who have the character for the sport."

Stratton, who also coaches club boxers, considers the University match "a very tough affair". He added: "Club boxing may be more skilful, but the Varsity match, with a 2,000 audience, is completely hyped up. It is a terrifying situation for a boxer of that experience. Club boxers never have to face a situation like that."

What pleased Stratton about the annual match, in which men such as Colin Moynihan, the former Minister for Sport, Tom Pendry, the Shadow Minister for Sport, and Kris Kristofferson, the actor, have taken part, is the comradeship of the opponents. Stratton said: "Last year, Alex Mehta, one of the Oxford team, made a mess of his Cambridge opponent but he wrote a lovely letter to him afterwards."

Nobody fully understands

why Oxford have been so dominant, though they have had superb coaching and Stratton adds that they have "acquired a nucleus of boxers and have fed off it. At Cambridge, we have had boxers for a year who have then drifted away". Freeland, himself a graduate of Oxford, where he concentrated on karate rather than boxing, said: "Oxford have had better continuity and a large gym."

It was to offset these advantages that he approached Irwin, a fellow Cumbrian, for extra training.

Freeland is captivated by boxing. "It is the ultimate fitness sport, the ultimate competition," he said. "Boxing is just one man against another. It is so physically and mentally demanding that other sports are almost a preparation for it." Freeland, himself a graduate of Oxford, where he concentrated on karate rather than boxing, said: "Oxford have had better continuity and a large gym."

Also scheduled to compete in Thailand with Woods, who is ranked No 14 in the world after only 11 professional tournaments, are Steve Elkington, the US PGA champion in 1995, Curtis Strange and Frank Nobilo, of New Zealand.

Ernie Els is not in Thailand

and instead tees off at the South African Open today to launch a three-tournament safari for the PGA European Tour. Ian Woosnam, Vijay Singh and Costantino Rocca will also be competing at the Gleneagles tournament, which runs from March 26-29. The Surrey side could certainly be popping up the table, along with Lingfield, and have a series of tough encounters to come.

Woods wilts in the heat of return to Thailand

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIGER WOODS, the young professional hailed as the brightest prospect on the US PGA Tour, has had the edge taken off his return to his mother's home country by illness and fatigue. Woods, greeted by cheering crowds when he arrived in Thailand on Tuesday, was forced to pull out of the pro-am event preceding the Asian Honda Classic, which starts today, after being laid low by the heat.

Exhausted after a sleepless night and recovering from food poisoning, Woods, who was raised in the United States, withdrew on the 13th hole in Bangkok. "Tiger is in the locker-room suffering from heat exhaustion after the long flight from the US," Peter German, the tournament director, said yesterday. "He is not at all well. He cannot give a press conference today and begs your forgiveness."

Woods, 21, who has become one of the best-known sportsmen in Thailand, teed off at 11.10am and by midday the temperature had risen to 35C, with intense humidity. By the 3rd hole, he was showing signs of tiredness and stomach cramps. After four hours, he was driven off in a cart after failing to complete the 6th and 8th holes.

John Cream, a spokesman for the Asian PGA, said that Woods had endured a flight lasting 20 hours and had only two hours of sleep before flying by helicopter to the Thailand Country Club, in the Bangkok suburb. He had been flown back to his Bangkok hotel to rest. Cream said:

"Freeland is captured by boxing. "It is the ultimate fitness sport, the ultimate competition," he said. "Boxing is just one man against another. It is so physically and mentally demanding that other sports are almost a preparation for it." Freeland, himself a graduate of Oxford, where he concentrated on karate rather than boxing, said: "Oxford have had better continuity and a large gym."

Also scheduled to compete in Thailand with Woods, who is ranked No 14 in the world after only 11 professional tournaments, are Steve Elkington, the US PGA champion in 1995, Curtis Strange and Frank Nobilo, of New Zealand.

Jansher Khan's domination of world squash has been so complete that the notion of an "unlucky" venue is hardly likely to dent his confidence to any significant degree. Yet even he will have noted with some concern the announcement yesterday that the Equitable Life Super Series finals are to be held again at The Galleria in Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

It was there, 12 months ago and in the same event, that Jansher suffered his last defeat. Although Del Harris, of Great Britain, his conqueror on that occasion, will not be in attendance this time, the other seven contenders have shown the kind of form that could undermine the Pakistani's aura of invincibility.

Rodney Eyles and Brett Marin, of Australia, Peter Nicol, of Scotland, Chris Walker, Simon Parkes and Ahmed Barada, of Egypt, have earned their places through their results at the seven Hi-Tec Super Series tournaments on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) World Tour.

Eyles, the world No 2, was in sparkling form for Ellis Lingfield in the Super Squash League this week, defeating Cairns 9-2, 5-9, 9-6, 10-8. However, his success at first string was not enough to prevent Dunraven Maeseg winning the match 2-1 and moving to the top of the table.

Walker, the highest-ranked Englishman, at No 4 on the PSA list, took his first tour title at the Apawamis, in New York, at the start of the year and went on to reach the semi-finals of most of the Super Series events. This week, he defeated Derek Ryan, the Ireland champion, 9-6, 4-9, 9-7, 5-9, 9-6 to clinch a Super Squash League win for ICL LionFerts against Rowlands Mancaster.

Jansher, the world champion, is serving a PSA suspension for his late withdrawal from the Mahindra event and may take up his Super Squash League registration with Surbiton in order to get sharp for the Hatfield tournament, which runs from March 26-29. The Surrey side could certainly be popping up the table, along with Lingfield, and have a series of tough encounters to come.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There was some good partnership understanding, and thoughtful play, on this hand from the 1997 Macmillan international pairs. Christian Mari was North and Omar Sharif South.

Dealer West North-South game IMPs

♦976 ♦A102 ♦VAK94 ♦Q74 ♦K2
+52 ♦W E ♦843 ♦10876
+AK2 ♦S ♦832 ♦+106
♦KQ5 ♦Q5 ♦6 ♦SA98643

Contract: Six Clubs by South

Lead: Ace of diamonds

West opened a weak Two Diamonds. Mari doubled and East raised to Three Diamonds. Sharif bid Four Diamonds. In the first instance, all that said was that he wanted to play in Four of a major, but, when he removed Mari's Four Hearts to Five Clubs, he showed an excellent hand with a club suit. Mari completed a good auction by raising to Six Clubs.

You might think that there was nothing in the play. After winning the diamond, West switched to a heart, and now many players would simply draw trumps and go on to the next deal, but Sharif won the heart in dummy and ruffed a diamond at trick three before drawing trumps. Do you see?

It was to cater for East holding all the clubs. If that had been the case, then, after the king of clubs, declarer can

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Linares

In the first round of the Linares tournament, in Spain, Garry Kasparov defeated Vishy Anand, the world No 2. Michael Adams, Great Britain's representative, beat Alexei Dreev, of Russia.

Chinese chess

The Chinese have their own version of chess which, with more than 400 million regular players, is probably the most popular board game in the world. The main differences from chess as we know it are that pawns capture as well as move forwards in straight lines, there is a river which divides the centre of the board, there are two pieces known as elephants and catapults, which are unknown to western chess, and both kings are confined within a restricted fortress. The game is highly tactical. This tactical basis has proved excellent training for Chinese players who wish to join the international arena. Several Chinese champions, grandmasters and masters are on tour in western Europe. The following game is a Chinese victory from Geneva.

White: Peng Xiaomin

Black: Lasarev

Geneva, January 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 e5

2 Nf3 Nc6

3 d4 c5

4 Nc3 Nf6

5 Nf3 Nc6

6 Bc4 Nf6

7 Bb5 Nc6

8 Bb5 Nc6

9 Bb5 Nc6

10 Bb5 Nc6

11 Bb5 Nc6

12 Bb5 Nc6

13 Nf3 Nc6

14 Bb5 Nc6

15 Nf3 Nc6

16 Bb5 Nc6

17 Bb5 Nc6

18 Bb5 Nc6

19 Bb5 Nc6

20 Bb5 Nc6

21 Bb5 Nc6

22 Bb5 Nc6

23 Bb5 Nc6

24 Bb5 Nc6

25 Bb5 Nc6

26 Bb5 Nc6

27 Bb5 Nc6

28 Bb5 Nc6

29 Bb5 Nc6

30 Bb5 Nc6

31 Bb5 Nc6

32 Bb5 Nc6

33 Kf1 Nc6

34 Kf1 Nc6

35 Kf1 Nc6

36 Kf1 Nc6

37 Rf1 Nc6

38 Rf1 Nc6

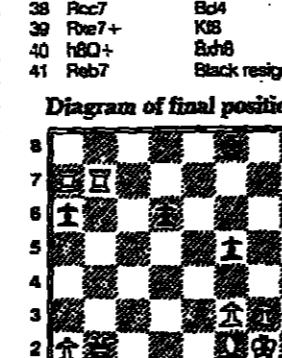
39 Rf1 Nc6

40 Rf1 Nc6

41 Rf1 Nc6

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WARNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Lautier — Arand, Linares, 1994. Here, White could play 1. Rfd1 Kf8; 2. Rxf7 Kg7; 3. d8Q Rxf7;

FOOTBALL: LEADING CLUBS LOSE WEMBLEY RESIDENCY TO COMPETITION'S NEW PRETENDERS

Underdogs savage Cup ambitions of big five

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THE Czech Republic in the European championship final, unseeded players in the Wimbledon final, unfeared teams in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals, and now this. The past year has been the year of the underdog and it seems the FA Cup is following the same theme.

The picture for the fifth-round draw became clearer yesterday as fourth-round ties and replays were finally played and what is clear is that the traditionally strong Cup teams will not be making the final this time.

For the first time in 22 years, in fact, not one of the "big five" — Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Everton, and Tottenham Hotspur — will be represented at Wembley. Added to that are the early exits of Newcastle United's expensively-assembled side and Aston Villa, seven times winners of the competition.

Just as in the Coca-Cola



REVISED DRAW

FOURTH ROUND: Blackburn Rovers v Coventry City (February 15).

FIFTH ROUND: Birmingham City v West Ham; Chesterfield v Nottingham Forest; Leeds United v Portsmouth; Manchester City v Queens Park Rangers; Middlesbrough v Wrexham; Bradford City v Sheffield Wednesday; Leicester City v Chelsea (both February 16); Derby County v Blackburn Rovers or Coventry City (February 26).

Leicester City, perhaps owed a little bit of luck, given that they have been beaten finalists on four occasions.

Blackburn Rovers, who have not lifted the trophy since 1928, look a particularly attractive bet at 10/1, but they must first emerge through two ties against Premiership opposition — against Coventry City in and Derby County — to reach the quarter-finals. There is another all-Premiership tie in the fifth round, Chelsea visiting Leicester.

It means that at least one lower division club will be represented in the last eight —

MAX NASH



Neil Sullivan, of Wimbledon, dives to thwart Andy Cole, of Manchester United

Harford in line to take Albion post

BY RICHARD HOBSON AND RUSSELL KEMPS

AFTER being turned down at least three times since dismissing Alan Buckley two weeks ago, West Bromwich Albion will, at last, unveil their new manager at a press conference this morning, with Ray Harford thought to have accepted the post.

Harford, dismissed as manager of Blackburn Rovers last October, met Tony Hale, the Albion chairman, before the Nationwide League first division match against Birmingham City on Tuesday night. Afterwards, the club's directors convened for a special meeting.

Despite taking on a coaching post at Reading recently, Harford has hinted

after a return to management. He declined to comment on Tuesday night, but said last week, on applying formally for the job: "Albion is an ambitious club — the kind I would like to manage. There is so much potential for success."

Hale has been rebuffed by Bruce Rioch, the assistant manager of Queens Park Rangers, John Toshack, the manager of Deportivo La Coruna, and Chris Waddle, who opted to remain as a player with Bradford City. However, Hale said: "It is not like the recent situation at Manchester City, with respect to them. Most of the people we have spoken to would love to come to Albion, but have had to turn us down for personal reasons."

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough

manager, is considering an appeal against the booking of Emerson, his Brazilian midfield player, near the end of the 1-1 draw away to Wimbledon on Saturday. Robson believes that Graham Barber, the referee, may have misinterpreted Emerson's action when he threw down the ball and was booked for dissent. "He was only showing his frustration over Phil Stimpson not passing the ball to the unnamed Jumbino," Robson said. "It is ridiculous to be booked for having a go at a team-mate."

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, is holding a get-together at Stratford today for the 14 England-based players in his squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Estonia in Monaco next week.

FA backs Brighton agreement

THE Football Association yesterday welcomed the announcement of a compromise between supporters and the board at Brighton and Hove Albion, the ailing Nationwide League third division club.

Mediators brought in at the request of Lancaster Gate in an attempt to find a solution to the club's travails said yesterday that "full and frank" discussions between the club and supporters had succeeded in reaching an agreement.

Brighton supporters have not attempted to hold back their indignation at the chairman, Bill Archer, and chief executive, David Bellotti, as the Sussex club fought into crisis.

Paul Samrah, a supporters' spokesman, was banned from the Goldstone Ground by Archer after his forceful protests on behalf of a consortium put together by Dick Knight, a local businessman.

The compromise will see the ban on Samrah lifted, the west side of the Goldstone being opened in stages from this week and Archer and Bellotti, both hounded from the directors' box in recent months, showing "over presence".

The CBI-backed Centre for Dispute Resolution added that all parties wished to continue with the dialogue and emphasised the importance of an early solution.

In a statement, the FA said: "We are particularly pleased that all sides have seen the merit of supporting measures to reduce the tension off the pitch on match days. We share their concern that any further disturbances may prejudice the club's position in the Football League and be a possible threat to public safety."



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Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Day tel _____

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CHANGING TIMES

Supporters backing Warnock's return

BY RUSSELL KEMPS

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There is also still the prospect of the FA Cup Final becoming a repeat of the Coca-Cola final, with three of the four League Cup semi-finalists still following the Wembley trail on two routes.

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RUGBY LEAGUE: SETTLED ST HELENS HOLD CUP TRUMPS AS WIGAN STRIVE TO KEEP TUIGAMALA

Clash of giants provides perfect start

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT IS appropriate that perhaps the most critical season in rugby league should begin with a climax. With marketing forces going into overdrive to make the second year of the Super League a success, Machiavellian forces were inevitably felt to have plotted the early meeting of St Helens and Wigan Warriors in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Quirks of the draw have dictated, however, that the two great rivals collide in the Challenge Cup at least every other season. Salford Reds obliged St Helens, winners of the competition last year as part of their double with the inaugural Super League, by eliminating Wigan in the fifth round. In ten Cup meetings since 1977, including two finals, Wigan have not lost to St Helens.

Yet the fourth-round tie on Saturday is essentially different. Both sides are starting from cold, but St Helens are the holders, they have home advantage, which is important, and, despite Bobbie Goulding's transfer request, they appear more settled.

RUGBY UNION

Howley to face fine for breach of contract

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ROBERT HOWLEY, the Wales scrum half, faces a £2,000 fine for breaching his Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) contract. The WRU confirmed yesterday that it is investigating claims that Howley wore clothing during training last week before the international against Ireland bearing the logo of a rival company to Reebok, the official WRU kit supplier.

The contract that Howley has with the WRU states that, all national squad members must wear Reebok equipment while on official international training and media duties. Earlier this season, Leigh Davies, the Cardiff centre, was fined £2,000 for wearing a rival manufacturer's tracksuit top during a television interview.

Cardiff, Howley's club, said yesterday that it was considering withdrawing from the

division to a Courage Clubs Championship first division of 12 teams, there will be no room for an Anglo-Welsh competition. The tournament appears destined, therefore, for a short lifespan.

Jo Maso, the France manager, dismayed at the loss of two of his players for the game against Wales on Saturday week, has called on referees to take stronger action against foul play in French club rugby. "I feel as if I have been punched in the face myself," Maso said, after Thomas Castaigne, the centre, and Philippe Benetton, the flanker, sustained broken jaws in club matches recently.

There were further problems for France yesterday when Alain Penaud, the Brive stand-off half, ruled himself out of the team to play Wales. Penaud has not fully recovered from the ankle injury he collected during his club's victory over Leicester in the Heineken Cup final last month.

Brive have confirmed that their proposed match with Auckland, the Super 12 champions, will go ahead on February 23 after Bernard Lapasset, the French Rugby Federation president, withdrew his objections to the game, with the proviso that it went ahead at a neutral venue. That will be either Namur or Lille.

Andrew Harriman, the captain of England's World Cup winners four years ago and now the team manager, has opted for continuity in the 1997 event in Hong Kong next month, choosing seven of his former colleagues in a training squad of 21.

Lawrence Dallaglio will captain the side, with the only absences from 1993 being Damian Hopley — who has a long-term injury — and Justin Cassell. Dallaglio will expect to be included today in the full England team to play Ireland in Dublin on Saturday week.

ENGLAND SEVENS SQUAD: B. Davies (Bath), N. Bell (Northampton), M. Sam (Cardiff), M. Wilson (Worcester), P. Sculthorpe (Leicester), A. Howley (Leicester), R. Lehmann (Cardiff), N. Maynard (Cardiff), P. Squire (Cardiff), J. Stannard (Cardiff), S. Sculthorpe (Worcester), J. Stannard (Worcester), B. Pocock (Cardiff), G. Green (Cardiff), P. H. Rodger (Northampton), P. Sculthorpe (Worcester), C. Sherriff (Worcester).

The final legal documentation for the agreement between the Rugby Football Union and the leading clubs was signed yesterday at Wolverhampton. John Richardson, the union president, said: "All in the game may now rejoice in this agreement which heralds the new rugby future of unity and strength of purpose."

Anglo-Welsh Cup. Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, said: "Everyone has had a gutful of this competition. I don't think we will be playing any more of our games, although nothing is final at this stage."

The competition has failed to capture the imagination of the clubs or the public and, with a mounting backlog of fixtures, it seems increasingly likely that the Welsh clubs will pull out.

Andrew Beer, from Durnant, said: "We've been prepared to run with the Anglo-Welsh concept in a bid for meaningful fixtures, but the games have proved to be anything but meaningful."

With an expanded Heineken Cup next season, which includes pool matches being played on a home-and-away basis as well as cup and international weekends, in ad-

dition to a Courage Clubs Championship first division of 12 teams, there will be no room for an Anglo-Welsh competition. The tournament appears destined, therefore, for a short lifespan.

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SPORTS POLITICS: PLANS TO SHIFT GRANT EMPHASIS AWAY FROM GRASS ROOTS

Lottery to fund stadium schemes

By JOHN GOODBODY

"but to what extent we have yet to determine".

However, it is probable that the amount of money for grassroots activities will increasingly be available for the building of spectator facilities for sports such as cricket, rugby union, rugby league and even horse racing.

The English Sports Council (ESC) has decided that a higher priority should be given to the redevelopment of stadiums and it will discuss with the national governing bodies how this can be achieved. An ESC spokeswoman accepted that the balance between providing local facilities and those for spectators would change, adding

that inroads into Lottery money because construction is so expensive compared with the funding of local activities. The Sports Council is also going to consider ways to help those smaller football clubs which have been badly affected by a decline in the income of the Football Trust. The Trust, which distributes money for the benefit of the game, relies on money from the football pools, which have suffered since the start of the National Lottery.

The spokeswoman stressed that stadium redevelopment would depend on community use: "We are not looking at funding a facility which is only going to be used a couple of times a month and we are not in the business of funding profit-making organisations," she said.

Any aid to spectator facilities is likely to make substantial

moderation for clubs in the lower divisions of the Football League and non-League clubs," the spokeswoman said. "To increase the viability of improved facilities, further consideration also needs to be given to increased ground-share arrangements between different clubs and different grounds."

The Trust has already provided £144 million for FA Carling Premiership and Nationwide League first division clubs to meet the requirements of the Taylor Report. The Government accepted in 1992 that smaller clubs need not build all-seater stadiums, which have become mandatory for the leading clubs.

TWO of England's most promising players have been dismissed from the national training squad and told to back up their ideas by Steve Baddeley, the coach.

Nathan Robertson and Ian Sullivan, both 19, have been severely reprimanded by Baddeley, the former European and Commonwealth champion, who is particularly concerned about late nights, drinking and absence from squad sessions.

"We can't achieve without 100 per cent commitment in competition, training, attitude and lifestyle," Baddeley, who was appointed England direc-

tor of elite play six months ago, said. "There is a culture among a significant minority of players which is counterproductive to world-class achievement and we have to do something about that now."

Baddeley has omitted Robertson, an England international, from the elite squad "indefinitely" and has stopped all his funding to tournaments. Sullivan, an under-21 international, has been dropped from the talents squad for February and had his funding to tournaments stopped for the month of March.

BADMINTON

Baddeley takes tough stance on discipline

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Pankratov denied world record swim

DENIS PANKRATOV, the Russian swimmer, has been stripped of the short-course 100 metres butterfly world record that he set at a World Cup meeting in Imperia, Italy, yesterday. Pankratov, the double Olympic champion, eclipsed the old mark of 52.07sec, set by Marcel Gery, of Canada, in 1990, by clocking 51.93sec, but it was later revealed that no drug testing was carried out during the event, which means that Gery's time remains the world-best mark.

It is the second time that Pankratov, who set the short-course 200 metres butterfly record of 1min 52.04sec on Saturday, has lost a world record in this manner. Last year, in Paris, he lost a world 100 metres butterfly record when organisers also failed to carry out drug testing.

At the same meeting in Imperia, Mark Foster, of Great Britain, won the 50 metres freestyle in 22.14sec and Susan Ralph the 100 metres individual medley in 1min 02.00sec.

Britons battle on

TENNIS: Mark Petchey, the Great Britain No 4, yesterday completed one of his best victories for months when he beat Dennis van Scheppingen, of Holland, the No 1 seed, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 to reach the quarter-finals of the ATP Challenger event in Wolfsburg, Germany. His success was followed up by Chris Wilkinson, the Britain No 3 from Southampton, who defeated Dirk Dier, of Germany, 7-6, 6-4 and also moved into the last eight. It is the first time that Petchey has reached the quarter-finals of a Challenger tournament since July, and has dropped to No 207 in the world rankings. Petchey, 26, from Essex, will today meet Cristiano Caratti, of Italy, the world No 169.

Pugsley shows way

RIFLE SHOOTING: British match rifle shooters continued their run of successes to win the Woomera Trophy by 26 points over 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards on the Campbell Town range in Tasmania. In turbulent winds that veered rapidly, at times, coaches called a halt to shooting for as much as ten minutes to allow the winds to settle. The British were never headed at any range, but, because of their tactics, found themselves shooting in more disruptive conditions than the Australians. John Pugsley, from Devon, again proved to be the leading Briton with a top score of 217.23.

Yates back on track

CYCLING: Sean Yates will return to track competition, after a 16-year career in continental road-racing, when the new season starts on Good Friday at Herne Hill, south London. He will be picking up where he left off, competing in the ten-minute pursuit, which he last won in 1979 while preparing for the 1980 Olympic Games. The main opposition to Yates enjoying a winning return should come from Rob Hayles, who has won the London pursuit for the past two years and rode in the Great Britain team at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year.

Sri Lanka take spinner

CRICKET: Sri Lanka have included Muttiah Muralitharan, the controversial off-spinner, in a 15-member squad for their tour of New Zealand this month. Arjuna Ranatunga will captain the team to play two five-day Test matches and three one-day international matches. Muralitharan's technique was questioned by John Reid, the New Zealand coach, during Sri Lanka's tour in 1995. During a tour to Australia last year, two umpires no-balled the player, forcing Sri Lanka to drop him. Sri Lanka claim he suffers from a condition that does not allow him to straighten his arm.

Semi-finals beckon

TENNIS: Great Britain is guaranteed a semi-finalist at the women's satellite event in Sunderland, after Lorna Woodroffe and Jo Ward won their second-round games yesterday. The pair meet today in the quarter-finals after Woodroffe, the No 8 seed, defeated Alina Tescor, of Romania, 6-3, 6-2, and Ward knocked out Tatjana Poutchek, from Belarus, 6-3, 14-6. Marlin Lee pulled off an unexpected win when he beat Andrew Foster, his fellow Briton, 7-6, 5-7, 7-6 in the first round of the men's indoor satellite event at Bramall.

BASKETBALL

Rodman allowed to return for Chicago

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DENNIS RODMAN, the colourful Chicago Bulls player, has been told he can return to action by the National Basketball Association (NBA) after missing 11 games through suspension, his punishment for kicking a cameraman at the course during the Bulls' game against Minnesota Timberwolves last month. The threat of banishment from the league hangs over him if he fails to straighten his arm.

Rodman reached an out-of-court settlement with his victim, Eugene Amos, agreeing to pay him \$20,000. His suspension will cost him more than \$1 million in salary and bonuses but, as a gesture of appreciation to his fans, Rodman has said that he will play the first 11 games of his return for free, donating his salary to "11 Assorted Charities".

"I'm glad I can come back and play like I do again," Rodman said. "I could say I'm sorry until I'm blue in the face and it wouldn't prove anything. But I'm going to play for free. That shows that it isn't all about money."

When asked if he was

returning with a clean slate, Rodman said: "I just live life day-to-day. I'm not going to change the way I am. My goal is still to contribute and be on one of the greatest teams of all time."

Rodman had been ordered to undergo counselling during his suspension, but, after accepting his case for reinstatement, David Stern, the NBA commissioner, said: "I am satisfied that Dennis recognizes that his conduct in the Minnesota game was unacceptable."

"Dennis told me that, while he does not plan to change the way he plays the game, he will conform his conduct on the playing court to acceptable standards and he knows that any further incidents of this nature may end his career in the NBA."

Rodman, whose body piercings, tattoos, rainbow hairstyles and cross-dressing have drawn as much attention as his rebounding prowess, has been suspended nine times since 1992 and three times since last March. He has led the league in rebounding for the last five years.

BADMINTON

Baddeley takes tough stance on discipline

two of elite play six months ago, said. "There is a culture among a significant minority of players which is counterproductive to world-class achievement and we have to do something about that now."

Baddeley has omitted Robertson, an England international, from the elite squad "indefinitely" and has stopped all his funding to tournaments. Sullivan, an under-21 international, has been dropped from the talents squad for February and had his funding to tournaments stopped for the month of March.

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A concatenation of codes, cops and cons

The encouragement of others is a rare move for tally-makers, which perhaps explains why Hugh Whitemore's excellent *Breaking the Code* (BBC1) hilariously ended up last night under the rubric of the numeracy project "Count Me In". Any story less likely to inspire mathematicians is hard to imagine. True, the great Enigma code-breaker Alan Turing (Derek Jacobi) had glorious speeches about the reliability of numbers as opposed to the insoluble problems of real life; but since Turing ended up lonely and suicidal, if the queen for maths A level is longer this morning, I'd be surprised.

However, any excuse to get real, intelligent, fire-bucket drama onto BBC1 is good enough. This stage play from 1986 has been jumping up and down (alongside Ian McEwan's old film *The Imitation Game*), saying "But what about us?" ever since Robert Harris

brought out his novel *Enigma*, as if no one had thought of it before. Whitemore's play is an elegant piece, with a virtuous role for Jacobi, in which the contradictions of Turing — his frankness and his enforced secrecy — finally refuse to be contained in his genius. After the war (which wouldn't have been won without him, as he told a lover, quite matter-of-fact), Turing was prosecuted for his homosexuality, hence his suicide. His code, if you like, was broken.

Evidently the virtue of mathematics is that it always tells the truth. Thus, all the great moments in *Breaking the Code* involved the perils of veracity. Turing's would-be girlfriend Pat (Amanda Root) tells him she loves him. Big moment. "I'm a homosexual," he says, quietly. Another big moment: "I know," she replies. A terrific scene with Turing's mother (Prunella Scales) involves the same confession. But most crucial of all

is his reckless admission to a police officer (Alun Armstrong) that he's slept with a man. This is in 1952. "Can't you forget about it?" he keeps asking the stone-faced Armstrong. "Can't you?"

A genius pleading with a jibesword is an unpleasant sight. Jacobi's upturned face is the perfect mixture of mask and passion: as an actor, he can personally abject loss and loneliness better than anyone I know. Years ago, his *Cyrano de Bergerac* made me actually sob in the stalls; to see his Alan Turing on telly at last (courtesy of producer Jack Emery and director Herbert Wise) was a real, if unexpected, treat.

Of course, the rest of the evening wasn't all as good as that. ITV gave us *Supply and Demand*, a two-hour pilot for yet another cop-by-numbers series, this time about undercover drugs-busting. Created by Lynda

La Plante (creating is so much harder than just writing), *Supply and Demand* attempted to make up for stereotypes by questionably casting Juliet Aubrey (of *Middle-march*) as a rough DS with dirty hair and esuary vowels. Meanwhile Freddie Starr was, rather alarmingly, Mr Big, with give-away car numberplates (F1ST FK) and sinister dangly earring. I remember an unkind comedi-

an saying Mia Farrow chooses children as if she's playing *Countdown*. "I'll have a black one, please. And a Chinese one. And another black one." British team-cop drama is cast like that, too; only there's also always a Scot, an Asian and someone from Tiger Bay as well, not to mention an uppity broad. Of course, it's quite right that racial mix should be an issue in telly drama *it encourages the others*, and luckily, *Supply and Demand* had one original idea which had nothing to do with tokenism: the struggle between two black policemen from different backgrounds — Eamonn Walker as the handsome Jake, a stick and plausible infiltrator of drug scams; Ade Sayers as stiff-necked DI Harrington, forced by circumstance to attempt a Rasta impersonation. Both were excellent. But the United Colours of Benetton back-up team were puppets, and somehow or other, not.

Is *Supply and Demand* really a "one-off drama", as it was billed? The trouble is, even if it becomes a series, there's no point getting attached — they just come and go, regard for the hours the viewer is prepared to put in. We make good imitations of the NYPD *Blue* formal here (*Out of the Blue* was strong). *The Knock* was huge, but you always feel, as a viewer, each week could be the last. However, if *Supply and Demand* does catch on, it might address one particular oddity: that last night it made surveillance look ludicrously easy. Whenever Starr looked out of his car, he'd find Audrey talking openly into her mobile phone, and somehow or other, not.

Drugs were the issue of the second programme last night, and Morris was down on the street, filmed from above in fuzzy night-light, asking an increasingly irritated dealer for "triple sod" and "yellow bentones". Meanwhile Noel Edmonds was somehow persuaded to make a genuine appeal against a new Czech drug called *Cake* (a huge yellow aspirin, the size of a discus) which can affect the part of your brain called "Shamer's Bassoon". I don't quite understand how trapping Noel Edmonds in a con any more sophisticated than a "Gatca". But then, satire is such a complicated world, these days.

REVIEW

Lynne Truss



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BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (78235)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70457)
9.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (7020051)
9.20 *All Over the Shop* (715040)
9.45 *Kilroy* (702524)
10.30 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (29863)
11.00 *News* (7) and *weather* (8801457)
11.05 *The Really Useful Show* (7157341)
11.45 *Smilie's People* (1988241)
12.00 *News* (7) and *weather* (8803983)
12.05pm *The Alphabet Game* (529051)
12.30 *Going for a Song* (7170185)
12.55 *The Weather Show* (3488703)
1.00 *News* (7) and *weather* (93544)
1.30 *Regional News and Weather* (98517815)
1.40 *Neighbours* (7) (2018056)
2.05 *Snooker: The Masters* (4594761)
3.30 *Playdays* (199899) 3.50 *Casper Classics* (2014457) 3.55 *Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam!* (782761) 4.10 *Fred Willy* (988070) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* (5887964) 5.00 *Newround* (7) (7744032) 5.10 *Grange Hill* (7134506)
5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (728419)
6.00 *News* (7) and *weather* (273)
6.30 *Newsroom South East* (525)
7.00 *Watchdog: Consumer Issues*, presented by Anne Robinson (883761)
7.25 *Comic Relief: The Launch* (602231)
7.30 *EastEnders* Phil begins to realise the gravity of his situation (7) (709)
8.00 *Incredible Journeys* The last in the series follows the western diamondback rattlesnake from birth, through its fight for survival in the Sonoran Desert (1) (328).
8.30 *Neat of Kin* Georgia announces to her weary grandparents that she is going to fast for world peace, but Meggie's concerns grow when she fails to start eating again (7) (88517).
9.00 *News* (7) - regional news and weather (8167)
9.30 *Comic Relief: The Launch* (673885)
9.35 The X-Files When couch-potatoes suddenly become overwhelmed by the urge to kill, Mulder believes they could be victims of a plot to manipulate society through television. Scully despairs as her partner appears to jump to yet another bizarre conclusion. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (427983).
10.20 *The Frank Skinner Show* Stand-up comedy and interviews (7) (352032).
10.50 *Question Time* David Dimbleby's guests are the Agriculture Minister Angela Browning, the Shadow Minister for Women, Janet Anderson, the writer and broadcaster Richard Littlejohn and the leader of the Plaid Cymru, Dafydd Wigley (66935).
11.50 *Remained Journeys* Acclaimed novelist Ahdaf Soueif revisits the Egyptian places of her childhood (834612).
12.10 *Film: Travelling North* (1987) Comedy, with Lee McLean. A retired Australian businessman leaves Melbourne to build a new life in North Queensland, where he learns he is suffering from a rare but serious heart condition. Directed by Carl Schultz (986113).
1.45 *Weather* (733544)

BBC2

6.00am *Open University* (6891708) 6.25 *Why Me? Why Now?* (5930345) 6.50 *Brief Encounter* 7.15 *News* 7.30 *Secret Squares and Co* (1955490) 7.45 *Blue Peter* (7505223) 8.20 *Washing* (7) (7925148) 8.35 *The Record* (9468167)
9.00 *The Science Collection* (1778896)
9.25 *Into Work* (7286490) 9.40 *Megamaths* (235273) 10.00 *Playdays* (54167) 10.30 *Storylines* (338470) 10.45 *Teaching Today* (718275) 11.15 *Heath* 3 (2005454) 11.30 *Landmarks* (7) (5529325) 11.45 *Techno* (1983419)
12.15 *Crime Minuteman* (7) (5772822) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (2419) 1.00 *Lifeless* (2196501) 1.25 *Isabel* (1528540) 1.45 *Numberblocks* (8085094) 2.00 *Wishing* (7) (8019262)
2.10 *Snooker: The Masters* (6789252)
2.50 *Horrible Outings* (7) (8612506) 3.00 *News* (7) 3.05 *Westminster* (7) (2891195)
3.35 *News* (7) 4.00 *Snooker* (8703)

BBC3

6.00 Star *Trail: Deep Space Nine* (7) (74934)
6.45 *Snooker: The Masters* (261186)
7.30 *First Sight: Dealing in Death* Why have the media and politicians been slow to highlight heroin addiction among young children and instead focus on the threat posed by Ecstasy? (821). **WALES:** *Disaster: EAST*: *Matter of Fact* **MIDLANDS:** *Midlands Report NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST:* *Cross Up SOUTH: Southern Eye*
8.00 *Disaster* In 1988 a couple set sail from Germany for New York on a 371st stop, four days out in the Atlantic the vessel began to sink and the couple were forced to take to the leaking life raft (7) (832).
8.30 *Top Gear* Jeremy Clarkson chooses the best of the newest hatchbacks (7) (7457).
9.00 *Third Rock from the Sun* Sally becomes disenchanted with Earth (7) (415780).
9.25 *Mummies — Horizon Special* In the frozen reaches of an Alpine pass, the body of a man from the Stone Age has become a window into a long-forgotten world (7) (405235).

BBC2

9.25 *Reckless* *ITV, 9.00pm*
Robson Green, Michael Kitchen, and Francesca Annis star in a six-part drama from Paul Abbott, who has previously distinguished himself as a producer and writer on *Cracker*. But *Reckless* is not a police series, and nor, although the main characters are attached to a hospital, is it primarily a medical show. Green plays a pushy young surgeon who applies for a registrar's post at a Manchester hospital and falls hopelessly in love with the attractive management consultant (Annis) responsible for assessing her. The trouble is that she is some years older and married. There is more. Her husband (Kitchen) turns out to be not other than Green's new boss. It says much for Abbott's writing that, despite some implausibilities, the plot operates on a loftier plane than this bald synopsis might suggest.

BBC2, 9.25pm

Ice *Mummies — Horizon Special* The second in this intriguing series about frozen bodies from long ago features a glacial mummy discovered by two hikers on a mountain pass in the Alps. That was in 1991 and ever since scientists have been trying to unlock the secrets of the mummy and reconstruct his way of life. Experts reckon that the work will go on for many years yet but if this is only an interim report, it contains much to ponder. Having dated the corpse to 5,500 years old, archaeologists have had to rethink their ideas about the Copper Age. Before the Iceman, there was no evidence of a copper industry in the Alps so long ago. Now there is plenty. But while the scientists' try to agree, the politicians are haggling. The Iceman was found on the border between Italy and Austria and both countries claim him as their own.

Before I Die: Getting On With It

BBC2, 10.15pm

Tonight's testimonies from the terminally-ill are particularly poignant because the subjects are so young. Not that Craig, 17, or his 10-year-old best friend, Danny, come across as typically pious and courageous. They're interested in girls, alcohol and rock music. They are determined to go to college one day to do a course in business studies, the other to pursue his talent for art. Sadly, they may never get there. Both suffer from Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a generic condition that withers away the body. They have never been able to stand or walk. Confined to wheelchairs, they could die at any time. They have lost close friends from similar diseases. But it is not going to stop them doing things while they still can.

Peter Waymark

Before I Die: Getting On With It

BBC2, 10.15pm

Before I Die: Two teenagers suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy describe how they lead an active and busy life, despite living under the shadow of a terminal condition (7) (81631).
10.20 *Video Nation Shorts* (282877)

10.30 *Newsnight* (7) (516761)

11.15 *Shocker: The Masters* (658419)

12.00 *The Midnight Hour* (43620)

12.30am-5.00 *Learning Zone: In Search of Identity* 1.00 *Mr. Student?* 1.30 *Fair Trading* 2.00 *The Fashion Business* 4.00 *Greek Language and People/French Know How* 5.00 *The Small Business Programme* 5.30 *20 Steps To Better Management*

Dave Rooney, Craig Evans (10.15pm)

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HTV

6.00am *GMTV* (1671419)
9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw* (7175709)
9.35 *Regional News* (5743273)
10.00 *The Time, The Place* (41693)
10.30 *This Morning* (3309503)
12.20 *Regional News* (669167)
12.55 *Shortland Street* (7522723) 1.25 *Home and Away* (7) (15203295) 1.50 *Afternoon Live* (2015438) 2.20 *Vanessa* (7) (3004438) 2.50 *Afternoon Live* (5094780)

3.20 *News* (7) (5107065)

3.25 *Regional News* (6691506)

3.30 *The Riddlers* (7701070) 3.40 *Wizards* (9420323) 3.50 *The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* (1988780) 4.15 *Mike and Angelo* (908709) 4.40 *Sticky* (3513099)

5.10 *Country Practice* (1671419)

5.45 *Supply and Demand* (6575506)

6.00 *Merlin* (7) (5107065)

6.15 *Shortland Street* (7522723)

6.30 *Home and Away* (7) (15203295)

6.45 *Vanessa* (7) (3004438)

6.55 *Shortland Street* (7522723)

7.00 *Mike and Angelo* (908709)

7.15 *Supply and Demand* (6575506)

7.30 *Sticky* (3513099)

7.45 *Country Practice* (1671419)

8.00 *Shortland Street* (7522723)

SNOOKER 40

Doherty puts record straight at Wembley

SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6 1997

Thorpe hurt on eve of second Test

Injury clouds England's preparations

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN WELLINGTON

WET weather, a pitch sweating under cover and injury concerns over influential players combined to leave both teams fretting about their strategies on the eve of the second Test match at the Basin Reserve here yesterday.

England's final practice session was aborted due to morning rain, with David Lloyd, the coach, remaining consistent to his themes of recent days by declaring that his players had done enough and would not be kept on stand-by for an improvement in conditions.

This could hardly be condemned as complacency, but it contrasted with the approach of New Zealand, who were able to begin a net session less than an hour after England had headed back to their hotel for a free day. They were eventually cut short by a return of the rain, though not

The disorientating effect of

the weather was also troubling them. As had been forecast, steady rain began here on Tuesday afternoon and continued intermittently for much of yesterday. It was predicted to clear some time today, but its significance for the preparation and likely behaviour of the Test pitch was not lost on Lloyd.

The groundsman is now saying he is a day or two behind, which is the same situation we faced in Auckland, he said. This pitch does not have as much moisture as the last one, though, and it is now much lighter in colour after being cut since yesterday.

Whatever doubts surrounded the game, England took in one priceless asset, Alec Stewart is at present the most prolific batsman in Test cricket and, although he will be 34 in April, he is confident that he has several years at this level ahead of him.

Stewart began this match requiring 54 runs to complete 1,000 in nine Tests since his recall to the team, against India at Lord's, last June. It is a remarkable renaissance for a player who might easily have been written off after his toro of last winter and who was dropped from the side to accommodate Nick Knight.

I never thought it was the end, Stewart said yesterday. I just didn't think I would get back so quickly. When Nick was injured I took my chance and, as I have now been scoring heavily by injuries to the Arsenal pair, David Seaman and Tony Adams. Seaman has a knee problem while Adams is struggling with a twisted ankle.

Stewart's form on this tour has been exemplary with bat and gloves and he identifies job security as an important reason. In the past few years, I have had a lot of different batting positions, sometimes keeping and sometimes not, he said. Just knowing for sure what I will be doing through a tour is a great help.

Although he has not yet discussed it with Dave Gilbert, the Surrey coach, Stewart plans to take his England role of No 3 batsman and wicketkeeper into county cricket this summer. I shall have to keep more often if I am to do it regularly for England and it makes sense to settle in the position, he said.

Stewart made a serene 173 in Auckland and his only innings since, in a benefit match last Sunday, ended in dismissal by Maia Lewis, the New Zealand women's captain. He is not, however, a man who embarrasses easily and his confidence is transparent. This is not the first purple patch of Stewart's seven-year England career. In 1992, he made four centuries within eight Test innings and the third of them was on this ground.

Though they played in Arsenal's 1-0 FA Cup fourth-round defeat against Leeds United at Highbury on Tuesday, neither finished the game in comfort. Seaman only played after a late fitness test and appeared to be slow coming off his line when Rod Wallace scored Leeds' winner in the twelfth minute.

Perhaps that came a bit early in the game for him, Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said, although I don't think he would have been able to get to the ball even if he had been fully fit. It is only a small injury and I think with a few days' rest, he should be OK for England.

Adams, who may lead England out at Wembley as captain, left the pitch for two minutes during the second half to receive attention, but returned to play a vigorous role in Arsenal's feverish, yet fruitless, attempts at scoring an equaliser. He's twisted the ankle, but again, he should be right for the international, Wenger said.

Seaman and Adams reported to the England hotel, with the rest of the squad, in Buckinghamshire last night. Gary Lewin, who doubles as

the Arsenal and England physiotherapist, was expected to give them further treatment.

Glen Hoddle, the England coach, is already without three key players — David Platt, Teddy Sheringham and Andy Hinchliffe — while Paul Gascoigne and Paul Ince, his influential midfield players, have been nursing injuries.

England's first training session is at Bisham Abbey, Marlow, this morning and the mood among the players is optimistic. We've just got to concentrate on our own game and not worry about what the Italians do, Sol Campbell, the

Year of the underdog — 40 Albion post — 40 Supporters' revolt — 40

Tottenham Hotspur utility player, said. They are all good players, fast up front and solid at the back, and we know it's going to be tough.

The quest for a more distant World Cup goal — the hosting of the 2006 finals tournament — will reach another milestone tomorrow when officials of Uefa, the European governing body, fly to London to explain why their organisation backed Germany nearly four years ago.

They will meet officers of the Football Association in an attempt to defuse the dispute, which is threatening the goodwill created when England

staged the European championship and made Uefa a record profit of more than £60 million.

The two officials are likely to be Eralik Senes, of Turkey, and Per Kavn Omdal, of Norway, although it is possible that Lemart Johansson, the Uefa president, will also attend the meeting.

Uefa has insisted that it was well known that it decided to support the German bid three years ago, although the decision was never finalised. The final voting for the tournament venue takes place in June 2000 and will be carried out by Fifa, the world governing body.

The FA will want to know how the Uefa decision was taken, the exact nature of its support, why the stance was taken nearly six years before the deadline for applications and why Uefa did not communicate the news to its member countries.

It will also ask why, at a reception on July 1 and at official dinners in September and November last year, when the FA made known its intention to bid for the tournament, no Uefa official mentioned the previous vote in favour of Germany. It was only last Friday, after a meeting in Lisbon, that Uefa faced the news to the FA headquarters in London.

The incident has also disturbed relations between England and Germany, with the Germans upset that the FA did not consult them before launching a rival application.

Doubts over Arsenal pair threaten Hoddle's plans

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON AND JOHN GOODBODY

GLOUCESTERSHIRE are to hold talks with Courtney Walsh, the county captain, about his availability for the coming season. Walsh is flying in from Australia, where he has been captaining West Indies, to meet officials of the club this weekend.

Walsh is due to play for

Gloucestershire in a Test series in Sri Lanka that does not finish until June 17. Philip August, the Gloucestershire cricket secretary, said: "It is a fair bet he will want to play for the West Indies. We don't want him to play just for the last few months if we can't have him for the entire season."

No 1010 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
6 "Cotton-wool" cloud (7)
7 Equipped with weapon (5)
8 Air extremist (5)
9 Whole number (7)
10 One of pack of 52 (7,4)
11 Property seller (6,5)
12 Walk awkwardly (7)
13 Brief experience; artistic judgment (5)
14 Furnishing etc scheme (5)
15 Rhombus; precious stone (7)
16 Soot flake; dirty jokes (4)
17 Agreeable (8)

DOWN
1 Birthplace of St Francis (6)
2 Stupid, crazy (4)
3 One leaving to settle abroad (8)
4 Weapon; association (4)
5 Tyrolean dress, skirt (6)
6 I poet, loved Laura (6)
7 1914-18 world conflict (5,3)
8 Skilled (fn); sounds like Russian distance (6)
9 Item list for meeting (6)
10 Join (metal) (4)
11 Reveal; unadorned (4)
12 Hole for coin (4)

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Name/Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 1009
ACROSS: 1 Prospero 7 Ennui 8 Thickness 9 Ugh
10 Hair 11 Impos 13 Bonnet 14 Gifted 17 Savour
18 Hill 20 Net 22 Ladies' man 23 Bonny 24 Wear this
DOWN: 1 Patch 2 Opinion 3 Pike 4 Rhyme 5 Undue
6 Sighted 7 Estonia 12 Heavily 13 By and by 15 Triumph
16 Flounder 17 Show 18 Tissue 21 Date

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6 1997

SKIING 41

Downhillers join in chorus of disapproval



Frankie Dettori, the champion Flat jockey, returns after riding Punkah in the Tyne Handicap at Wolverhampton. Five months after riding seven winners in a day at Ascot, the Italian had three rides, his first in Britain this year, all of which finished unplaced. Photograph: Barry Batchelor/PA

Bradford opt to press charges over tackle

BRADFORD City have decided to institute criminal proceedings as well as issue a writ against Kevin Gray, the Huddersfield Town defender, after his controversial tackle on Gordon Watson during the game at the Pulse Stadium on Saturday that left the Bradford forward with a broken right leg.

Bradford believe the weight of medical evidence and the video footage of the incident, taken from several angles, will lead to Gray's prosecution. Watson, who only joined Bradford three weeks ago from Southampton for a club record fee of £550,000, had to undergo immediate surgery for a double fracture and have a six-inch plate and seven screws inserted in his leg. He will need at least one more operation and will be out of action for at least the next eight months. There are fears that the injury could mean the end of his football career.

Michael Shepherd, a partner of Hammond Studdards, Bradford's solicitors, is confident that they can win both civil and criminal cases — with the latter leading to Gray facing charges under sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act. Both involve grievous bodily harm, although section 18 relates to intent, something that Shepherd feels they can prove.

"If we didn't think there was a case for Mr Gray to answer — and it's for a jury at the end of the day to say whether he is guilty or innocent of the matter — and a probability of securing a conviction, then we wouldn't have gone ahead," he said.

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Richards: less dynamic

It is the effect that Brive have had on Leicester. Richards, 33, has seldom been outshone in his life, but Brive did so in the Heineken Cup final last month. Only a year ago, Richards was the man recalled to save England and Jack Rowell, the national coach, against Scotland when the five nations' championship was slipping away.

It was a tough call. Dwyer, who sang Richards' praises before the meeting with Brive, said: "Unfortunately, it goes with the job specification. I have every respect for people's achievements and more than Dean. He still has an important role to play, but Eric has had a good season."

Not that Richards's day is done. In a season when coaches have learnt to think in terms of 21-man teams rather than 15, tactical substitutions play a key role and Richards

is omission. "We have five or six outstanding back row players and it was inevitable something like this would happen," he said. "Eric has been playing well for Leicester and Ireland and has to be given a chance. I'm not the most dynamic player in the world and Bob wants more dynamism."

Miller was told on Monday that he would be in the cup team, but believed that it would be at blind-side flanker, instead of John Wells, also 33. The unsung Wells, though, has been a model of consistency this season, while the power and drive which were second nature to Richards have been less in evidence.

Underwood, who fought back from disappointment to play against Brive, gives way to Leon Lloyd again against Bath. In addition, Leicester throw Joel Stranks, whose dropped goal won the World Cup for South Africa, into the fray at stand-off half.

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